



Harley H. McElroy

September 24, 1950 - May 24, 2024

Lafayette -

Harley H. McElroy passed away peacefully at home on Friday, May 24, 2024 at the age of 73. He was born September 24, 1950 in Lake Charles, Louisiana to the late Charles and Verna Mae McElroy.

He is predeceased in death by his cherished older brother, Howard McElroy.

Harley moved to New Orleans in the early 1970's and graduated from the Charity Hospital School of Nursing in 1973 and later graduated from the Charity Hospital School of Anesthesia in 1979. While studying at Charity, he was seated alphabetically next to a pretty brunette from Kaplan, Priscilla Marceaux. After graduation they moved to Lafayette and started their family and careers. He was a devoted Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) for 47 years and served as a valued mentor for generations of nursing and anesthesia students. He was a natural and gifted caregiver and throughout his career as a CRNA, Harley worked in hospitals in Lafayette, New Orleans, Birmingham, AL, Pittsburgh, PA and retired after working at the Greenville Health System for 12 years in Greenville, SC. Always leaving behind friends and valued colleagues wherever he went.

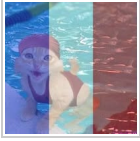
Harley is survived by his beloved wife, Priscilla Marceaux McElroy; daughters

Jessica McElroy (Peter Cooke) and Louise Buttross (Eddie), both of Lafayette, Louisiana; his grandchildren Harley Cooke and Gwyneth Buttross of Lafayette; his siblings Harriet Gaiennie (Randy Dornier) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Philip McElroy, Colorado. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Heidi McElroy of Abingdon, Virginia and by numerous nieces, nephews, and their children.

Harley's life was full of the things that brought him joy. He loved his family, good food, good wine, keeping his yard and flowers beds pristine, a quality vacuum cleaner, talking on the phone, watching Jeopardy, playing with his grandchildren, a perfect martini, and reading books about U.S. history. The first one awake in the morning, there was always a to-do list to accomplish by the end of the day. For many, Harley was their first phone call because he was some version of a handyman, counselor, nurse, best friend, chauffeur, mechanic, or landscaper for those who sought his help. To his girls, he seemed to know everything and they never stopped learning from him. His generosity, curiosity, warmth and charm cannot be overstated. He was a gifted story-teller and always left you laughing. His style was always polished and uniquely his. A devotee of the philosophy that if you take care of something, it will take care of you, he was immaculately tidy and meticulously organized. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you replace your air conditioning filters or check the air pressure in your tires. He would appreciate that.

A memorial to the rich life of Harley McElroy is planned for Summer 2024.

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear about this. I knew Harley and was a good friend of his brother, Howard, and knew Harriet, too. R.I.P Harley.

Judith West - August 07, 2024 at 12:27 AM

SC

“ Sending love and prayers to Priscilla and all the all family. I met Harley many years ago since Carla Snow us a precious sister in law of mine, Harley, Harriett and their sweet mom was at Carla's frequently and I would never miss being in their company whenever I had a chance. Harley and his mom Verna Mae were a joy to be around and I adored Harley's personality. Harley was always sweet, kind, humorous and made my children and I feel like family always. I totally understand your loss and will hold each one of you in my prayers...

Sissy Ward Cockerham - July 02, 2024 at 04:47 PM

CL

“ I was so sad and shocked when I heard this today. I met Harley while working LD at GMH in Greenville, SC. Harley was always kind to me and loved the confusion/laughs it caused when Carly/Harley were working together. I pray for peace and comfort for the family and Harley will be missed.

Carly Long - June 05, 2024 at 10:24 PM

KH

I think all of us who had the privilege of working with him at GMH L and D are sad and shocked at this news! Harley was always good to me and I missed his good natured ribbing once he retired. I lost my dad my senior year and Harley took me under his wing when I started L and D. He helped me grow as a nurse and showed his patients and coworkers compassion and kindness. He truly was one of the best and will be deeply missed! My thoughts and prayers are with your family. May your memories bring you comfort during this hard time.

Kathryn Hamilton - June 06, 2024 at 05:43 PM

WA

“ *I have been gone from GHS for over 10 years now, but Harley was always one person that I remember with the most respect. He was kind and patient- with both staff and patients. He had a funny way of saying my name with his beloved Louisiana accent. And he always had a smile for you. After reading this beautiful tribute, I know he will be deeply missed. May your precious memories give you comfort in the coming days. He was one of a kind.*

Whitney Arnett - June 05, 2024 at 08:04 PM

LC

“ *I met Harley as a CRNA student and the worked with him on OB as a colleague. There is one time as a student where he displayed incredible kindness, grace, and support to me and I will never, ever forget that day—I knew I wanted to be a preceptor like him one day. I’m grateful to have known him, and his patients were blessed to have him taking care of them. A great teacher and friend. Loved hearing his anesthesia stories and stories from Louisiana—a gifted storyteller he was! Dear Priscilla and family—my heart goes out to you during this time of loss. Praying for you all!*

Leslie R Chapman - June 04, 2024 at 10:43 AM

TS

“ I started working with Harley in January 1995. There were only 3 CRNA’s, so we saw each other a lot. We did a lot of hearts and vascular cases. He helped me a lot. He was fun to work with. He was a superb CRNA, who was considerate, hard working and funny. He was a great coworker. I saw him last at Charity Hospital in 2002. When I saw him, he said “I know where you got those shoes.” I was wearing a pair of Allen Edmond penny loafers he sold me. I got the shoe trees too. I still have the shoes and they look great. I also change my a/c filter. He knew a lot. Most time I wear the shoes I think of him. I’m sorry for your loss Priscilla. I’m glad I had my 6 years working with him.

Tom Smithers - June 04, 2024 at 08:30 AM

AA

“ What a beautiful tribute to a fine man. I treasure the time I spent with Harley. Intelligent, witty and kind...Harley brought so much joy to my days at GMH. He loved his people deeply (Priscilla, Jessica & Louise) and spoke of you so often that I feel like I know you. I simply adored him. Peace and love to you all. 💕

Ashley Adams - June 03, 2024 at 09:16 AM

TA

Everything Ashley said is so true. We all loved him at GMH, but was so happy when he was able to return to Lafayette to be with his family. There will never be another Harley! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! 💕

Tammy Ayers - June 03, 2024 at 10:15 AM

KH

I worked with sweet Harley in the OR at GMH for several years. He was a great CRNA to his pts and great to the staff. I'm so sad to hear of his passing. He was very devoted to his family and being back home, so I was so happy he was getting to move home, while being sad he would no longer be a coworker of mine. My heart is so sad for what y'all have lost. Prayers for you all. Harley was one of a kind! Much love!

Kimberly Hudson - June 04, 2024 at 08:42 PM

SR

Ashley has summed up the feelings of those who worked with Harley at GHS. He was a great CRNA and coworker. We missed him when he left but he was so happy to go home to Louisiana and his family. He will never be forgotten. Much love and prayers to your family!

Sharon Rhinehart - June 05, 2024 at 10:22 PM

JB

The comments from my friends and pre retirement co workers are so similar to my own thoughts of Harley. He was unfailingly kind to patients and staff and I too respected him and loved working with him over my years at GHS . Prayers for comfort and love for all his family.

joan burnett - June 06, 2024 at 08:54 AM



“ *He was a mentor to me as a CRNA. OB was scary as a new CRNA but he made it comfortable. His stories, his food knowledge and his amazing coffee brought comfort in unsettling times. RIP, and thank you.*

D-Rock Nickerson - June 02, 2024 at 07:49 PM

JT

“ Priscilla I am floored to see this on Facebook contact me so we can speak ..and tell Harley I am getting my tires checked and also changing my filter. .hug the children..I am sorry 😞 for your loss may many blessings and prayers 🙏 come to your family..i would hug ☐ you and massage your sorrow away if I was closer 😊 love ❤️ to you and your family Jonette

Jonette trypack - June 01, 2024 at 07:03 PM

JG

“ I met Harley when we were classmates in 1970 at Charity Hospital School of Nursing. We crossed paths again in 1977 at Charity's School of Anesthesia. We had a lot of fun and had no trouble getting into trouble back then. He married a wonderful lady and had a really good career along with being a great husband, father and grandfather. Thoughts are with you Pris and all the family that are grieving his passing

Jay Gonzales - June 01, 2024 at 09:13 AM

RW

“ Harley is one of my all time favorites! He was always a pleasure to work with as a student and colleague. I loved talking to him about anesthesia, life, food, Louisiana, and our families! Priscilla and him were great hosts and I will forever cherish our brief time together. Leave things better than you found them was a motto he showed. Cheers Harley. You are loved and will be missed by many.

Racquel Wohlers - May 30, 2024 at 01:32 PM

EG

“ Harley was a kind, funny, and generous friend. He was always willing to share his time to help a fledgling CRNA. And I always enjoyed spending down time talking with him. I would usually learn something and always laughed. He looked out for others in many ways, large and small. Priscilla, I'm so sorry for your and your family's grief. Harley tried to get me to treat my car better; I'm going to get it detailed in his honor and have a root beer float to celebrate his friendship. Elaine Gillespie

Elaine Gillespie - May 30, 2024 at 08:21 AM

CS

“ I met harley before we even knew how to talk. You see, he was my first cousin(on my dad's side) my father & Harleys mom were brother & sisters. No one could make me laugh like Harley. He had that Cajun sense of humor which brings me to why you will find yourself chuckling throughout his obituary. No one had a laugh or voice quite like his either. I close my eyes and I can hear it now!

He loved the finer things in life. Nothing quite like a 5 star meal & a good martini for Harley! He looked & dressed the part of a model; always groomed! Life has its ups & downs for harley as he searched to find himself for a season. Then he returned to his roots, the love & best friend, Priscilla, & the bonus was he had his girls & grandkids all back in Lafayette just like God aKeats intended it to be. HE was definitely our GRANNIES favorite. Mine too! I will miss you my sweet Harley but I gave wonderful pictures & memories I will treasure until we meet again 🙏 your favorite cousin, carla

carla snow - May 29, 2024 at 08:26 PM

JB

*I knew Harley way back when he was struggling in his adolescence/early teens ...the downs in life as cousin, Carla, mentioned in her comment. I don't remember hanging out together but I do remember him calling frequently and us talking on the phone for what seemed like hours at a time. He was trying to find his place in the world and within his family. He was kind, funny, caring, a good friend and, I think, misunderstood. I would just listen...at our age, I don't think I had any meaningful words of wisdom to share...all I did was listen. We drifted apart and I never knew what became of Harley but often thought of him and wondered about how life was treating him. A friend sent me his obituary and, although, sad to learn of his passing, I rejoiced reading of his wonderful and meaningful life. He found his way and grew into a cherished servant who was loved and respected by those whose lives he touched. What an amazing life he had. So proud of him!
Condolences to Harley's family and friends. 🙏🙏🙏*

Janie Cox Brady - May 30, 2024 at 01:04 PM

TA

“ I first met Harley in the operating room. I cannot recall when it was, but his name was familiar to me. For years I had heard other doctors and nurses speak of him in a loving and joyful way. It was obvious that he had impacted their lives and earned their respect. From our first encounter it felt like I had always known Harley. The times I did spend with him, I remember very fondly. He was a very talented CRNA, always kind and respectful of those around him. Devoted and hardworking, he seemed to be capable of adding humor and levity when least expected. Harley impacted my life also and he definitely earned my respect. I will miss him.

Todd Ackal - May 29, 2024 at 07:44 PM

SR

“ I was not a close friend of Harley's but we had an English class together in high school. The project was to create a commercial and use our imagination. That was right up Harley's alley. He did a commercial as a Disc Jockey for a radio station. If you knew his humor, he had everyone in the class rolling. I never forgot that class and other funny things he did in school. I am happy he had a great life and wonderful family. You will be missed greatly. God Bless you all. Sharon Brees Rose

Sharon Brees Rose - May 29, 2024 at 01:02 PM

SG

“ When I came to Lafayette to practice in 1994, Harley was our chief CRNA and the backbone of our practice. From day one we hit it off and soon I was buying shoes and belts from him out of the locker room that I still have and wear. He provided information, tips, and guidance help making settling into a new practice, a new state, and new home much easier and even enjoyable. We quickly learned the best places to shop and dine and who to call for home repairs, car detailing, and even where to stay in Perdido Key. His sense of humor and friendliness and wide base of knowledge and experiences along with southern Louisiana character made him popular with colleagues and quickly liked by patients and strangers alike. I don't think there was anyone in Lafayette and probably all of south Louisiana that didn't know and like Harley. He was an excellent nurse anesthetist and a hard worker and was truly instrumental in the success of our practice. I thought of him regularly over the years after he left our practice and have missed him since. However, the joys of Harley himself and our friendship and bond will always be with me. My heartfelt condolences Priscilla and all your family.

Scott Gammel - May 29, 2024 at 11:26 AM

JK

“ I was not a close friend of Harley’s but I loved hearing his laugh and voice. From his obituary, I could tell he lived a good life in so many ways and will be dearly missed by his family and friends. *Jeri Webb Kirkpatrick*



Jeri Webb Kirkpatrick - May 29, 2024 at 05:08 AM

TT

“ Harley and I were in anesthesia school together. We bonded over tennis and music and all the guy things. He made me laugh, I will miss him. Pricilla, another classmate, so sorry for you loss. *Tim Turney*

Tim Turney - May 28, 2024 at 07:56 PM

WA

“ To make a long story short...Harley and I had our fair share of fun through the years. Drinking good spirits, eating good (and bad) food, selling shoes, playing charades and dominoes and spending too much money. According to Harley we were part time scientists, plumbers, electricians, mechanics and in the process fixed a few things and screwed up a lot more. Too many anecdotes to relate. I’ll just say I miss my friend. *Bill*

William Atkinson - May 28, 2024 at 03:27 PM

JP

I am in total shock! What a highly intelligent and well respected man. Harley caused me to get hooked on Peet's (Major Dickerson) coffee. He was always a wealth of information on a variety of subjects and great places to eat. I really did miss his deep voice and all the chuckles that came from the nurses station. I also appreciated him taking time to stop for a short little chat with me during his busy day. I'm so very sorry to his sweet family whom I know must feel like a huge void in your lives. God bless you all and I will be remembering all of you in my thoughts and prayers. ❤️

Jannie Marie Pinckney - June 05, 2024 at 10:55 PM

PA

“ Perfect obituary. Harley would be proud, as he always was, of his girls. He was unique in every way and I will miss him tremendously. I'll miss his restaurant critiques, his music, his stories and his dancing but mostly his friendship. From years of pulling pranks on Bill and I to the last few years of quiet friendship it will be impossible to fill the void. And I will change my AC filter and check the air in my tires! That was a perfect! Hugs to all of you.

Patty Atkinson - May 28, 2024 at 03:09 PM