



## Carol Lee "Clee" McBee

November 23, 1944 - September 15, 2014

Carol Lee McBee, 69, of Jonestown, passed away Monday, September 15, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon. Born in Peckville, Lackawanna County, PA, she was the daughter of the late Walter Foley and Pauline Yaremchak.

Known as "Clee" to her friends and family, she demonstrated advanced abilities in the sciences while attending Benton School in Fleetville, PA. Clee first attended Penn State University and then transferred to the University of Maryland University College, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree. Clee also obtained her Master of Science in physics from Catholic University in Washington, DC. Despite a dearth of women working in the sciences in the early 1970s, Clee blazed a trail in her positions at the Science Policy Research Division of the Congressional Research Service, the Institute for Materials Research at the U.S. Bureau of Standards, and General Electric. Clee also worked as a manager for the U.S. Census Bureau during the 2010 Census.

Clee raised three children, all of whom she encouraged to nurture their talents and passions. She was very proud of the fact that all three children had achieved college degrees, with two holding graduate degrees as well. Clee was a dedicated member of the Quaker Valley Senior High School community in Leetsdale, PA. Her supportive and enthusiastic presence was crucial to the

many activities her children were involved in—from marching band, to musical and dramatic performances and ice hockey games.

During the turbulent years of the late 1960s, Clee was an avid supporter of the civil rights movement, and attended many nonviolent marches and rallies. Clee also became a passionate advocate for LGBTQ rights. She loved to travel the world, which afforded many invaluable opportunities for her children to experience different cultures and customs. She was the proud host mother to several foreign exchange students, whom she remained in close contact with long after their year in her home ended.

Clee was a legendary cook, and loved to create new recipes. Her table became a welcoming place for many friends and family, and she also catered large-scale dinners for several important moments in her children's lives, including graduations and wedding rehearsals.

Clee is survived by her children, Thomas McBee, New York, NY; Clare McBee, wife of Dan Johnston, Chicago, IL; Brett McBee-Wise, Oakland, CA; sisters, Phyllis, wife of Albert Sildorff, Lebanon, PA; Barbara Ann, wife of Jim Beswick, Sebring, FL; brothers, Walter J., husband of Kate Foley, Gaithersburg, MD and Joseph, husband of Maria Foley, Woodsboro, MD. She was preceded in death by her brother, Thomas Foley.

Private services will be held by the family.

In lieu of flowers, her family asks that memorial contributions in "Clee's" memory may be made to the National Academy of Sciences, Feeding America, American Civil Liberties Union or Amnesty International.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Lee "Clee" McBee*

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Carol Lee "Clee" McBee*

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Carol Lee "Clee" McBee*

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM

ME

“ CAROL LEE "CLEE" McBEE

November 23, 1944 - September 15, 2014

Jonestown, Pennsylvania

*Tomorrow is the anniversary of a very sad event, the death of my former employer & dear friend forever. I cannot adequately convey what this lady meant to me. I am thankful for the vivid memories I have of her & our time together.*

*I then quoted what I said on her Obituary Page a year ago:*

*These are the responses of my friends & family:*

*Andy Burnette, Martha Mabry, Clinton Getzinger, An Steckenrider, and Wanda Bass.*

*Comments*

*Carilee Moran hoping that the memories grow sweeter than the pain of loss.*

*September 14 at 3:27pm*

*Mary Jo Burnette They're neck & neck right now!*

*September 14 at 3:28pm*

*Hoy-Ann Joly She is always with you, and she watches over you!*

*September 14*

*Mary Jo Burnette Thank you!*

*September 14*

*Sabrina Wheeler heart emoticon*

*September 14*

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**Mary Jo Burnette - Raleigh, NC - Friend; she was ormer employer - September 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM**

BS

“ Dear Carolee...Not a day goes by that you are not remembered by your sister, Bonnie. I remember your visit to Florida when we were homeless from our hurricane-ruined condo. You came to our temporary home armed with fabulous snacks and goodies and we did up the town (Stuart) with a lot of good restaurants and laughs. I appreciated your very capable handling of Mom's and then Dad's Memorials. I was there for the first, when we three sisters stayed up almost all night laughing and crying. My last visit with you in the hospital tore my heart apart; but I know you felt my presence. You will never be forgotten and always missed in my life. Love, Bonnie.

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**Barbara ANN Beswick - Sebring, FL - sister** - September 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WN

“ I knew Clee when she worked at the National Bureau of Standards during turbulent times for the Nation. Always a little bigger than life and a staunch advocate for women in science. A pleasure to have coffee with during a morning break in the work day. But what comes to mind was a dinner my wife and I had at her house for tournedos with Bernaise sauce. Must have been pretty special to remember it for almost half a century. I haven't seen Clee for over 40 years and so she is still a young, energetic scientist in her 20's.

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**William Kirchhoff - Rockville, MD - Old (!) friend from NBS** - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“Clee interviewed me for the position of her assistant. The moment we first saw each other, something clicked--we instantly saw something similar in each other. With her broad smile, she shortly had me smiling. After discussion of my background and experience, she asked me to tell her what my former employer would say about me. I answered, "They would say I didn't smile enough." She laughed, put her hand over her mouth and told me that was exactly what they said. I was hired on the spot! During the time we were employer/employee, our relationship developed. When she announced that she was moving to Pennsylvania, I could hardly breathe. After that, every time she came to Raleigh we visited and had lunch together, and telephoned, e-mailed and facebooked frequently. She never spoke about her illness, but I suspected something was wrong when our communications became fewer and fewer. Both my son Andy, who also knew her well, and I were devastated to hear of her illness and shortly after that her death. My dear, dear Clee, rest in peace.

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**Mary Jo Burnette - Raleigh, NC - Employer and good friend forever** - November 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“I remember so well Clee's sense of humor. She could always put a different spin on an ordinary event and her ability to do that was always a bright light. I'm sorry for all of those close to her that we have lost her. Judy

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**Judy Scioscia - Sewickley, PA - friend** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ We have so many memories. You welcomed me into the Foley family before it was official. You offered your home and helped me plan the wedding that I could only dream of. With your help you made my dreams a reality. We shared so many vacations and holidays together. I have so many happy thoughts that they are too many things to list. My kids loved your cooking and couldn't wait till your next meal was served. Bald Head Island will always be our favorite beach spot. My only regret is that we didn't have more time with you. Rest in peace. Love ya always, Maria.

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**Maria Foley - Woodsboro, MD - Sister-in-law** - October 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Clee...what an amazing light you have been. I know you have been a personal inspiration and role model for me. I met you through AYUSA when you had our dear Trang, who came to America with no host family to take her trusting that someone would. We met her, and the rest was history. We loved hosting Trang for a year, and getting to know your and your dear family through this experience. You were incredible when acting as a leader in this community for AYUSA, bringing the exchange students, keeping in contact with them, planning get-togethers (feasts) at your home for the students and their host families. You were warm and nurturing to all, and created a wonderful family of students from all over the world, each year that you led this. You were again incredible when Trang died tragically, and formed a bridge between her family in Vietnam, Trang's University family in America, and her host families in the USA. I feel you have been in this leadership role often in your life, leading by example, creating warm and nurturing environments to many, and inspiring all you meet to become better people. I am so sorry we never had that last picnic we talked about....I love you.

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**Andrea Lewis - Sewickley, PA - friend** - October 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“Clee touched so many lives in so many areas. We had the pleasure of knowing her while she lived in Sewickley and our children went to school together. Our fondest memory was her leadership and physics knowledge when our children competed in the Odyssey of the Mind competition. She was a great role model for everyone. She taught so many of life's important lessons...determination and never giving up, always do your best, working amicably together, sharing, and that it is not about winning, but the journey. She was an inspiration to all who knew her and the Semple family is grateful that she came into their lives. We remember her and her children with a smile and send our prayers to you all. A remarkable woman who had a remarkable journey herself. The Semple Family

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**Judy, Ian, and harton Semple - Sewickley, PA - friends** - September 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“I remember Mom and Dad weren't happy when I changed your name to "Clee," I think it was some time in the late 60s. Guess it stuck and from that point on, Phyllis had two crazy sisters named Clee and Bon Bon. How do you explain that to your friends? Clee and I had great adventures together. We made our mark in 4H "varying the basic to dress up the ordinary;" in the Poconos at Shawnee Inn doling out relish and rolls; and at Chevy Chase and Dupont Circle in D.C., surrounding ourselves with South American friends, show music, jazz...and messing with government employment. What a ride, and none of it forgotten. I'll miss you, Clee. Love from your sister, Bonnie.

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**Barbara A. Beswick - Sebring, FL - sister** - September 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I wanted to share how I met Clee. I was pregnant with my 2nd child, pushing my 9 month daughter in her stroller with a dog tied to the front and another dog tied to the back of the stroller up a hill in Sewickley Manor, Clee was driving by, stopped rolled her window down and asked me if I needed some help.... She was an Angel then and is an Angel now. Clee and her Children embraced me into there family. I remember when my mother passed Thomas, Clare and Brett comforted me by bringing me little gifts. I hope I can bring some comfort to you Thomas, Clare and Brett to let you know how much your mom helped me believe in myself and taught me grace and much more. Clee I will see you someday on the other side....

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**Carol Tillotson - Clearwater, FL - Friend** - September 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM