



John Forbes McCormick

February 4, 1943 - October 6, 2025

John Forbes McCormick, age 82, passed away peacefully. Beloved brother of Brian McCormick (Christine), Marcy Burkhead (Curt), and Peggy McCormick. Proud uncle of Shannon Forbes Burkhead Swanson (Alex), and great uncle to Charlotte Delaney Swanson.

John was born in Evanston on February 4, 1943. He grew up in Rogers Park, graduated from Loyola Academy High School in Wilmette, IL (1961). He attended Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH) and then graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1965, where he was a proud member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was a longtime resident of Old Town.

John spent eighteen years with the City of Chicago and was admired by colleagues as a preeminent expert with vast knowledge in his field and a “nose for numbers.” Prior to his time with the City, John worked for the Chicago Board of Trade, sold insurance products for Frank Johnson & Co., and sold some of the first cellular phones that hit the market.

John received a mayoral appointment to the Sister Cities Committee for Chicago-Galway, Ireland. Among his many other civic commitments, John was on the Board of Directors for Jobs for Youth, was a member of the Illinois Tax Increment Association Legislative Committee, and had been a member of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago for many years. John was also proud of the fact that he attended over 50 Kentucky Derbies!

Recognized by many as a true and loyal friend with a great sense of humor, John will be missed by his family and friends, City of Chicago co-workers, and those that he did business with in the private sector.

A Celebration of Life Mass will be held at 2:00pm on October 23 at St. Gertrude Catholic Church (1420 W. Granville Avenue; Chicago, IL 60660). A reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Misericordia or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Tribute Wall

EI

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Forbes in the early 80s He was unique. He was also very funny and kind. May he rest in peace. Eileen

eileen - October 22, 2025 at 04:22 PM

MG

“ Peggy we are so sorry for your loss! It's never easy to say so long to our Sibs- but our faith reassures us we will see them in eternity ❤️. You were a very special sister indeed! Mary Jo and Bill Gallaher

Mary Jo Gallaher - October 20, 2025 at 04:33 PM

FM

“ Our sympathy and special prayers for Forbes and all his family and friends.

Fr. Jack Clair & Residents of Misericord - October 20, 2025 at 02:24 PM

NT

“ Peggy, I was sorry to learn of your brother's passing. I didn't know him, but he was lucky to have you as a sister. I can certainly see a family resemblance. My thoughts are with you. Hugs, Nora

Nora Tabler - October 14, 2025 at 12:17 PM

PM

Nora - Thank you! ☐

Peggy McCormick - October 14, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ *White Lightning. That was his given name by his fraternal brothers in the early 60s. He was a fraternal friend to all brothers. but he was more than a friend. He was a companion. And what a companion to have. He was a joy. A guys guy. A “I have your back” guy. He was a conversationalist. What a talker. He knew everyone. Even if he didn’t know you, he would get to know you through conversation in a flash. He could converse with you without saying a word. Up north and on a lake I asked him if he wanted to go skiing. He didn’t say a word. He didn’t look at me. He looked through me. I had his answer. He had not said a word. He was simply a nice person. He loved his Badgers. Football and basketball. He didn’t miss a football game as an undergraduate. And post graduation homecoming games with brothers in Madtown, he was there. One of his last games attended it was cold, cold, cold. With a hard rain and a stiffer wind to test your staying power. Brian showed his manliness by bailing out at halftime. But not White Lightning. He was a man’s man. After the first play of the 2nd half the man’s man showed his true colors. With tail between his legs he followed Brian’s sanity. White Lightning was smart. Really smart. I was known in the KE house as the guy who took copious notes. Just to get a ‘C’ I had to attend all the classes, take notes on everything the professor said, don’t miss a graduate taught midweek class and make an all nighter before the test. White Lightning borrowed my notes (he had’t attended a class nor bought the class book) and got an ‘A’. I got a ‘B’. With some professors the final exam is all important. That was the professor we had. White Lightning got an ‘A’ for the class. What a guy. We all loved him.*

Violetta Krolikowska - October 13, 2025 at 11:04 PM

PM

Thanks Pirate!!!

Peggy McCormick - October 14, 2025 at 01:13 PM

BM

Pirate: Thank you ! What a perfect, accurate Memory !!

Brian McCormick - October 15, 2025 at 02:46 PM

BL

“ *J. Forbes McCormick was a former colleague at two of my previous jobs. We caddied at the Edgewater Golf Club on Pratt an Western in the early 1960's. We also worked together at what was then the Appraisal Engineering Corporation on North Ashland Ave in Chicago. WE had a mutual friend in Peggy Hoenadle. I am sorry for your loss. He was a character and a nice man.*
Bob Lewin

Bob Lewin - October 11, 2025 at 08:29 AM

PM

Thank you Bob! We love hearing recollections like this!

Peggy McCormick - October 14, 2025 at 01:14 PM

J"

“ James ". planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Forbes McCormick.

James " - October 10, 2025 at 05:01 PM

MO

“ Ahhhhh, ham sandwiches.....supremo!!!!

moonman - October 10, 2025 at 04:50 PM

PM

Thanks for planting a tree in Forbes honor! We like hearing recollections of his friends!

Peggy McCormick - October 14, 2025 at 01:16 PM

BM

Bro Moonski: Thanks for the Tree ! Forbes would love it ! He ALWAYS asked me: "where's that Moonman ??"

Brian McCormick - October 15, 2025 at 02:46 PM