

C'ville educator 'liked by everyone'

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

David B. McDowell, the legendary educator from the Clarenceville School District who retired in 1984 after 18 years as superintendent, died Sunday of cancer in his home on Louise in Livonia.

A memorial Mass for the 71-year-old former U.S. Marine, teacher, coach, sports enthusiast, principal, superintendent, husband, father and grandfather was held Wednesday at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Farmington.

Memorials may be sent to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia 48154, or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter Inc., Suite 100, Southfield 48076.

In his 23 years in Clarenceville, both as principal of Clarenceville High and then as superintendent, McDowell left his mark.

In fact, when he retired in 1984, the district named its athletic field after him: the David B. McDowell Athletic Field. Today, his name still dominates the scoreboard on the field.

At the time of the dedication, McDowell said he was "humbled and overwhelmed" by the honor.

On Tuesday, friends and family gathered at the Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington to remember the man former Livonia

Mayor Edward McNamara once cited for being "an active force for good in this community."

"He was good, kind, humorous, intelligent, a totally enjoyable person," said Ralph Skrocki, Clarenceville's finance director. "He was liked by everyone."

McDowell was born in Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a hometown he returned to many times during his lifetime. In 1941 he graduated from high school, only to find himself a young man in a nation at war.

He joined the U.S. Marines in 1943, serving mostly in the Pacific until 1945. At the time of his discharge, he knew he wanted to be a teacher. It was a career he came to naturally, because his mother had been a teacher and his grandfather had been a school superintendent in Chippewa County.

In 1951 he received his bachelor's education from Northern Michigan University, where he was captain and most valuable player of the 1950 football squad. He earned his master's in administration at Michigan State University and his specialist degree in administration from Eastern Michigan University.

His first teaching job was in 1951 at Pickford High, about 22 miles south of the Soo. While



DAVID MCDEWELL

Well-earned honor: On a winter's day in 1984, retiring Clarenceville Superintendent David McDowell stood beside the football field that soon would be dedicated to him and bear his name.

teaching social studies, he served as assistant football and basketball coach and also coached undefeated track teams.

Before coming to Clarenceville in 1961, he also taught and coached in both Vermontville and Comstock. In July 1966, he was named superintendent of Clarenceville School District.

McDowell is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lena. His three daughters, Sheryl Clements, Diane

Harmon and Lynette Weller, are all teachers and are all graduates of Clarenceville High.

McDowell also is survived by seven grandchildren, sister, Caroline Lenhart and brother, Lynn McDowell.

In his retirement years, spent in his home near Grandview Elementary, he enjoyed winter trips to Florida, summer trips to the Soo, fishing with his grandchildren, and golf.

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH SAURO SR.

Mr. Sauro, 71, of Farmington died Sept. 13.

Born in Johnstown, Pa., Mr. Sauro was a coal miner and a baker for Awrey Bakery. He was a World War II Navy veteran and a life member of VFW.

Survivors include his wife, Gertrude; sons, Joseph Jr., David, Frank, Dennis and Alphonso; daughters, Alice Sayyee and Barbara Guethlein; brother, Robert; 22 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Services were at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Memorials may be made to Closed Head Injury, Children's Hospital-Development Office, 4160 John R, Detroit 48201.

He was an engineer. He spent three years in Iran with American Bell International.

Mr. Vernal was a World War II Army veteran. He attended West Point 1943-46.

Survivors include his wife, Ada; sons, John, Lewis and William; daughter, Onna Lou Vernal; six grandchildren.

Services were Oct. 7 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Eugene Sorenson of Unity Church of Livonia officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

Memorials may be made to American Lung Association, 18860 W. 10 Mile, Southfield 48076.

MARY A. FAURCE

Mrs. Faurce, 98, of Florida, formerly of Farmington, died Oct. 8 in Orange Park, Fla. Born in Grand Rapids, Mrs. Faurce was a homemaker.

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