



Wayne McCall

December 26, 1946 - June 23, 2025

Wayne Charles McCall, a proud son of Ocala, Florida—renowned for his leadership on the football field, in the courtroom, and throughout his community—passed away peacefully at the age of 78.

Born on December 26, 1946, Wayne was a lifelong Floridian and a shining example of character, service, and excellence. A 1964 graduate of Ocala High School, he went on to attend the University of Florida, where he left an indelible mark as a three-year football letterman and team captain for the Florida Gators. As a hard-hitting linebacker, Wayne helped lead the Gators to victories in the Sugar Bowl and Orange Bowl, and he was celebrated for his intelligence, toughness, and unwavering leadership.

His athletic contributions were matched by his academic excellence. Wayne was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities*, selected for Florida Blue

Key, and later inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame. Following his graduation with a bachelor's degree in English in 1968, Wayne served his country as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, earning the Joint Services Commendation Medal. He returned to UF to pursue law, graduating with honors from the Levin College of Law in 1972 and becoming a member of the Order of the Coif.

Wayne embarked on a distinguished legal career that spanned over four decades. Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1973, he became a Board-Certified Civil Trial Lawyer and a certified Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. As a partner at Ayres Cluster Law Firm, Wayne specialized in personal injury, wrongful death, and complex civil litigation. He was respected statewide for his integrity, intellect, and passionate advocacy for justice.

His public service was equally impactful. Wayne was a member of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission and chaired the Fifth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission. He was active in numerous legal organizations including the Florida Bar, the Marion County Bar Association, and national trial lawyer groups. Wayne never stopped giving back to the Gator Nation. He served on the University Athletic Association board, led the UF National Alumni Association as

president (1992–93), served on the Gator Boosters Board of Directors and was a member of the F Club. He was selected as Marion County’s “Gator of the Year” in 1992 and was a member of the University of Florida President’s Council.

In his community, Wayne was a founding member and president of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Ocala, served on the Public Education Foundation Board of Directors, was a Take Stock in Children mentor, participated in Junior Achievement of North Central Florida, served on the Board of the Scott Carrigan baseball field, and was an active member of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.

Above all, Wayne was a devoted husband and father. He married Beth Wasson in 1975, and together they raised three children—Diana, Melody, and Matt—instilling in them the same values of honor, compassion, and service that defined his own life. Wayne McCall embodied the true spirit of the Florida Gator—fierce in competition, generous in community, and loyal in heart. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched.

He was preceded in death by his father Wayne McCall, his mother, Catherine McCall

and his brother, George McCall. He is survived by his wife Beth; children Diana Scroggie (Josh), Melody Hardy, and Matt McCall (Allison); grandchildren Collin, Grady, McCall, Jack, Brooklyn, Kylie, and Maverick; brothers John (Janice), Bill (Crystal), Mike (Marilyn), Bob and Dan (Jaky) and a wide circle of extended family, colleagues, teammates, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 11th, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 800 SE 41st Ave. A reception will follow at the Country Club of Ocala.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Public Education Foundation of Marion County Take Stock in Children Program, 1239 NW 4th St, Ocala, FL 34475 or pefmc.org; Empath Hospice of Marion County Foundation, Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Campaign, PO Box 4860, Ocala, FL 34478; or St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 800 SE 41st Ave, Ocala, FL 34471.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 11. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St Pauls United Methodist Church
800 SE 41st Ave
Ocala, FL 34471

Celebration of Life Reception

JUL 11. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Country Club of Ocala
6823 SE 12th Circle
Ocala, FL 34480

Tribute Wall



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Wayne McCall.



July 02, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ Beth, Diana, Melody, Matt and McCall Family,
Many good memories of working with Wayne and how much I learned. He was a good man and my heart goes out to you all.

Barbara Wood - July 01, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ The Great Gator In The Sky has called #38 to the sidelines of heaven. We thank him for the the gifts he gave us—two daughters who became Wildcat Cheerleaders and a Gator basketball son. Also, it was a pleasure to work with his brother , Bill, on a football crew. Cheers to you!
Roddy Grubbs
OHS '64
Silver Sixties Cheerleaders

Roddy Grubbs - June 28, 2025 at 05:58 PM



Growing up in our very youngest years, Camp Roosevelt was home to many of us! What fun we had in that old neighborhood! The McCalls, Goldmans, Bowens, Hatchets, Starlings and many more I'm sure I missed! It is strange to think of Wayne as a kid playing in the street in the afternoons, but I do ❤️ Rest in Peace Boss Gator . May your memories always be for a blessing 🙏 Shalom

kate Goldman Gholston - July 08, 2025 at 05:37 PM

KS

“ I have such fond memories of Wayne. I know my parents loved him dearly. He was the epitome of what Daddy believed a student/athlete should be. There aren't too many like him. I always enjoyed our discussions at Silver Sixties--we talked about UF, the Gators, Mother and Daddy, his family. He told me great stories about our Dad that meant a lot. He will be missed. Katherine Graves Springfield

Katherine Graves Springfield - June 26, 2025 at 09:46 AM

LP

“ Always so proud of the man Wayne became. Hugs and prayers for his dear family. He will be sorely missed!

Linda Petteway - June 26, 2025 at 08:09 AM

PF

“ So many great memories of our bestest neighbor. His easy smile and soft tone always made a tough day become smooth. One great guy.

peter foy - June 26, 2025 at 06:54 AM

FT

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Beth, Diana, Melody, Matt and the rest of the McCall clan. Love to all!

Fawn Katherine Turner-Hess - June 25, 2025 at 11:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayne McCall.

June 25, 2025 at 09:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wayne McCall.*



June 25, 2025 at 09:50 PM



“ *Years of memories of learning and working together. An enormous talent. Grateful for the experience.*



Helen D - June 25, 2025 at 09:41 PM



“ *Heather lit a candle in memory of Wayne McCall*



Heather - June 25, 2025 at 10:28 AM