



Mack Gerald Fleming

May 3, 1932 - June 8, 2012

Mack Gerald Fleming, 80, of Seneca, S.C., husband of Elizabeth “Libby” McClellan Fleming, died Friday, June 8, 2012, at Cottingham Hospice House.

Born in Hart County, GA, on May 3, 1932, Mack grew up in Anderson, S.C. He was the son of the late Mack Judson Fleming and Dessie Leola Vickery. As a boy, Mack inserted comics in the Anderson Independent on Saturday nights, and he worked as a printer at the Independent during his senior year at Boy’s High School.

With the help of friends and Abney Mill, where his father worked, Mack received a partial scholarship to attend Clemson University, where he majored in Textile Manufacturing. At Clemson, he became a manager with the football team.

After earning his degree in 1956, Mack received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, Second Armored Division, with the U.S. Army, where he served in Germany for two years. Following service, he worked in the quality control department at Woodside Mills.

In 1960, he accepted a job with the U. S. Patent Office, but after only one-and-one-half weeks on the job, he began working as the Administrative Assistant for Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn of S.C. While

working for Congressman Dorn, Mack met and married his wife, Libby, on March 30, 1963. During his time with the Congressman, Mack entered the Washington College of Law, American University, in Washington, D.C., where he received his law degree in 1966.

From 1965 through 1967, Mack served as Director of the Congressional Liaison Service of the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., where he was assigned to the White House as an Advance Man for President Lyndon Johnson. He continued his service with the Congressional Liaison Office until President Johnson announced he would not run for a second term.

Then for five years, Mack worked in private practice of law in Washington, D.C. In 1974, at the age of 42, Mack became Chief Counsel for the Committee on Veterans Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. Four years later he became Staff Director and Chief Counsel, where he served a total of twenty-one years with the Committee. During his tenure, the Committee drafted many major legislative acts, including the The Montgomery GI Bill, the establishment of U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, and the elevation of the Veterans Administration to the Cabinet-level position of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In 1995, Mack retired, and he and Libby moved back to Seneca S.C. to care for Libby's father and be near Mack's family. However, Mack continued to work during his retirement. He was appointed by Congress to the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance in Washington, D.C.; by President William Clinton to the World War II Memorial Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.; and by President George W. Bush to the President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery For Our Nation's Veterans. Mack also served on the Advisory Committee of the Committee on Legislative Matters for the U. S. Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C., and on the Board of Counsel for the Dorn Veterans Affairs Research

Institute of the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center in Columbia, S.C.

Mack is survived by his wife, Libby; daughter, Katharine "Katie" Lee Carmona and her husband, Paul David Carmona, of Austin, TX; son John McClellan Fleming and his wife, Candace Danielle Sigmon Fleming, of Washington, D.C.; and five grandchildren: Katherine Layne Carmona, Caleb McClellan Dukes, Joshua David Carmona, Colton Sigmon Fleming, and Cooper Miller Fleming.

In addition to his parents, Mack was preceded in death by his brothers, James Homer Fleming and Bobby Meritt Fleming.

A graveside service will be held at 12 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2012, at M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery, 140 Inway Drive, Anderson, S.C. The family will receive family and friends immediately following the service.

A celebration of life service will follow at 4 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2012, at Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 616 Quincy Road, Seneca, S.C. A reception will follow the service in the Atrium at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the OMC Hospice of the Foothills, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672, <http://www.hospiceofthefoothillssc.org/>; Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 616 Quincy Road, Seneca, SC 29678-2603; or ARF, the Animal Rescue Fund, in Seneca, S.C., <http://arfsc.homestead.com/>.

The family will be at the residence.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.davenportfuneralhome.com

e.com. Davenport Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mack Gerald Fleming*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Mack wil be missed by us all. We are praying that God will give us all the strength we need to get through this. May god be with all the family and we love you all.##imported-begin##Doris Randy and Sandy Fleming##imported-end##*

June 14, 2012 at 07:52 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time for you. God bless always.##imported-begin##Cottingham Hospice House##imported-end##*

June 13, 2012 at 05:45 PM



“ My condolences to the entire family on the loss of Mack. I worked with him for most of the years I was at VA, and the thing I remember most was his gentlemanly approach to everyone he met, whether his position was in agreement with theirs or not. He was an icon in the veterans' community, and a friend to everyone who ever wore a uniform.

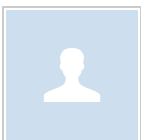
My prayers are that his style, defined by graciousness and civility, be adopted by all who were touched by him. May you all find peace in knowing he was loved by thousands who knew him, but beyond that he helped millions who never knew him.##imported-begin##Harold Gracey##imported-end##

June 11, 2012 at 01:30 PM



“ Libby, our thoughts are with you and your family. Another person said here that Gerald lit up the room when in it, and that certainly was true. We will all miss him.##imported-begin##Ben and Liz Vickery##imported-end##

June 11, 2012 at 11:35 AM



“ Mack Fleming was one of the most important and caring persons I have had the pleasure of knowing. When I served at the VA from 1993 - 2001 he was someone I could rely on to give me a candid and honest opinion. I shall miss him but I am a better person for having known him.##imported-begin##Hershel Gober##imported-end##

June 11, 2012 at 09:43 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mack's family and friends. He was a true profession, a mentor, a patriot and veterans' advocate. Millions of veterans will never know the positive impact Mack had on them and their families. Rest in peace and thank you for your good heart.##imported-begin##steve robertson##imported-end##

June 11, 2012 at 07:41 AM



“ Dear Libby,
We are so sorry for your loss. We really thought the world of your husband. He was such a kind and funny man. He will be so missed by all who knew him.
With deep sympathy,
The Paluzzi's##imported-begin##Mike and Melinda Paluzzi##imported-end##

June 10, 2012 at 08:21 PM



“ My prayers are with you as you grieve. Mack's life with us is certainly worth celebrating, and I believe firmly that our loss is his gain as he joins Christ for eternity.

I will always remember Mack as joyful and loving. He lit up a room, and he gave much to his family, community and country. He was a truly gracious and humble man, and a very loving father in law.

Love, Glenn##imported-begin##Glenn Dukes##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 11:13 PM



“ Libby and Family, we are so shocked and saddened by Mack's death. What a wonderful neighbor and person he was. He will be greatly missed. We are in Roanoke for our granddaughters HS graduation and will not be able to attend the services. We will see you on our return. You are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Bob and Jackie Brown##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 11:03 PM



“ To all of Mack's family, we extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy. May beautiful memories sustain you during this time of sorrow. "Though you cannot always see the bird singing, if you listen with your heart, you can always hear his song. Though the ones we love may leave life as we know it, in our memory, the love we knew will always carry on." We wish Mack's family comfort and peace.##imported-begin##Cousins, Jim and Ellen Martin##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 09:58 PM



“ Libby, Katie and John, our hearts are hurting in the loss of our loved one and we send our love and sympathy to you. The memories you have will help you in the days to come. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Peggy, Cathy and Judson##imported-begin##Peggy G. Fleming##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 09:46 PM



“ I have many great memories of Rock as we were managers of the Clemson football team. Served many years in the DC area and lived close by on Lake Keowee. I will miss you.##imported-begin##Earl##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 09:41 PM



“ I am greatly saddened by Mac's death and extend to his family my deepest sympathy. I considered Mac to be both my friend and counselor. His great concern for others, especially our Nation's veterans and their families, made him my hero. Millions of veterans and their families have benefited from his concerns for their welfare, and his efforts on their behalf during his career in government service.
I will miss him as a friend, but am comforted by the knowledge that he is now at peace in the presence of of our Lord and Savior.##imported-begin##Stedman sloan##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 05:39 PM



“ our prayers & thoughts are with all of you. The world lost a great man friday, our family lost a GREAT FRIEND.. God be with all of you at this time.H##imported-begin##Phil&Barbara vickery##imported-end##

June 09, 2012 at 05:02 PM



I haven't found the words yet to express my grief!

Candis L. Graves - July 17, 2012 at 10:27 AM