



# Edward M. McMahon

JUN 22, 1945 - SEP 17, 2024



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## **Edward M. McMahon**

JUN 22, 1945 - SEP 17, 2024

**E**dward M. McMahon, 79, of Clinton passed away Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at his home.

Celebration of Life is being planned for 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the AMVETS Club in Clinton, 1317 S. 17th Street, Clinton, Iowa 52732. Snell-Zornig Funeral Homes & Crematory is assisting the family and online condolences may be expressed by visiting his obituary at [www.snellzornig.com](http://www.snellzornig.com).

Edward Michael McMahon was born on June 22, 1945 in Sioux City, Iowa, the son of Edward and Wilma (Rieckmann) McMahon. He graduated highschool from Kingsley Pierson High School in Kingsley, Iowa, earned his Bachelors degree from UNI(1968) and then his Masters in Music Education from the University of Iowa(1979). Prior to teaching, Ed served in the United States Air Force and played clarinet for the 15th Airforce Band. He began his teaching career at the Amana School System(1972-1975). In 1975 he became the high school band director for DeWitt -Central Schools where he remained until his retirement in 2006. Following retirement Ed remained active as a part-time music teacher for St Joseph's Catholic school, directed the DeWitt Adult Summer Community Band, and was clarinetist as well as board member of the Clinton Symphony Orchestra.

He is survived by his children: Edward McMahon of Dallas, Texas, Erin McMahon-Katzer (Christian Katzer) of Salzburg, Austria, Brian Malahy (Sara) of Morganton, North Carolina, Kelly Rusch (Jonathan) of Alaska and Heather Benenato (Matt) of Chandler, Arizona; four grandchildren; three siblings: Madeline Nugent (Ramon), Meredith McMahon and Kathleen Bauer (Gerald); and significant other Beth Dwire of Clinton. He was preceded in death by his parents.



# Events

**Edward M. McMahon**

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## Celebration of life

 **Saturday**, September 28, 2024

 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

 **Clinton AMVETS**  
1317 S 17th Street, Clinton IA 52732





# Tribute Wall

**Edward M. McMahon**

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**Kim Scheckel Prier** posted:

He was a best band teacher i ever had. My greatest sympathy to his family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. #classof94

June 21 at 6:32 AM



**Joshua McDonnell** posted:

So many memories from high school and after with Ed as a constant. His office was always an open and friendly space where you could just relax and kind of separate from the whole being in school situation.

September 28 at 6:29 AM



**Cory Green** posted:

My thoughts are with the McMahon family, and all who Mr. Ed influenced throughout the years. So many class periods spent in the band room, playing, listening, and learning about music - a sanctuary for many during our high school years, and the fondest of memories. Rest easy Mr. Ed, you were loved and so influential to so many. Cory Green - class of 1990.

September 27 at 10:10 AM



**Mary And Roger Green** posted:

Rest on peace Ed. You were a wonderful music teachers. Our 3 children learned so much from you about music and life. Our deepest sympathy to all of your lived ones.

September 27 at 9:43 AM



**Barbara Ewert, Judy (Monke) Watts** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McMahon family.



September 27 at 9:11 AM



**Becky Meyer, Chs Class Of 1992** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the McMahon family.



September 27 at 7:12 AM



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**Andrew Kennedy** posted:

Mr. Ed was one of the good ones. Always proud of his students and always pushing them to be better. Mr. Ed was more than just a band teacher for me - he was someone I could go to if I needed help with homework or if I needed advice. He always made time for his students. An amazing teacher and a great man.

September 26 at 12:15 PM



**Madeline, Ray, Rebecca, & Ryan** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the McMahon family.



September 26 at 9:22 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the McMahon family.



September 25 at 1:57 PM



**Dana Chr** posted:

was my best friend. He was the most intelligent and musically gifted young man ever. I am sure he left his mark on this world. Dana Christophersen

September 25 at 1:45 PM



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MP

**Marcia (Nolte) Perdieu** posted:

As I get older, I forget that the teachers I had in high school are older still. I always have them in mind as being the way they were during that time so it is always a shock when I come across their obituary. Mr. McMahon was at the top of the list of my favorite teachers! He had a tremendous impact on me both musically and my life in general. I was a freshman (9th grade still at the Jr high) when he came to De Witt. When I started my sophomore year at the high school (1976) I thought I'd get a year to relax since there was a senior who also played oboe. I guess he saw some potential because he put me in first chair. He continuously encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone. By my senior year, I played in numerous small groups (duets, trios, quartets, quintets, and wind ensemble) for contest as well as a solo each year. I spent all my study halls in the band room practicing, talking with Mr. McMahon, doing various chores that needed to be done. He made that room a safe haven for a lot of us! He started the evolution of the marching band by adding a flag corps and choreographing some pretty amazing half time shows. The schools didn't travel as much back then but we did go to Disney World in 1978. Like Stephanie Zinda, he taught a music theory class my senior year! Best class ever! Mr. McMahon, you will be very missed, but your influence has and will be felt for years to come!

September 21 at 10:05 AM

MC

**Meaghan Crowley** posted:

He was the best! He backed me up when I played Taps at my father's funeral in 1999 and just hid behind a tree. He loaned me a trumpet (which I hadn't played in 10 years) and allowed me to practice with him beforehand. Just knowing he had my back gave me the confidence to do it all alone. But he was there! And he will be missed!!

September 21 at 4:42 AM

AW

**Anne (Kedley) Williams** posted:

Mr McMahon was one of the best teachers I had - he encouraged me to push my limits - including memorizing scales on a Fr Horn! As a result of his quiet mentoring I had a lot great band experiences for which I've always been thankful. Eddy, you were little, but I hope you remember our trip to Disney World in 1978 because the rest of us small town kids certainly do! I came to appreciate Mr McMahon's musical knowledge and dry wit during the very fun adult community band summers. One year he even took us to Boone to perform in their renowned band festival so we could experience the best of Iowa's best! It was also during summer band he'd share how well Eddy & Erin were doing in their own musical careers - a mix of pride & wonderment, but not a surprise to those of us who he positively influenced over a relatively short time in our formative years. My sympathy to you both - I'll be thinking of you as you celebrate his wonderful life next weekend.

September 21 at 3:14 AM



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RV

**Rachel Vickers** posted:

Mr. Ed was always the MOST proud of his students. Every contest, everything we did with our instruments, he was cheering and excited and just busting with pride. The band room was a safe place and a favorite hang for so many because of Mr. Ed. We would talk with him, work on homework, eat lunch, practice our solos, and more. In the summers I was in the band room almost every day. He kept it open so we could come in and practice- and we DID! Who'd have thunk?! All this to say, Mr. Ed really loved us and we loved him. What a wonderful legacy of memories and music he created.

September 20 at 6:23 PM

AC

**Ashley (McDonnell) Clark** posted:

One of the best!!! Always had a smile!! Thank you for teaching all those years! Class of '08

September 20 at 3:00 PM

DA

**Dani (Witt) Allensworth** posted:

I will never forget the day I dropped my (school-owned) french horn off my lap and ended up with the mouthpiece sticking sideways at a 90-degree angle. It was 100% my own clumsiness, and I felt awful. I can only imagine the panic that must have been on my face when I looked up. Mr. Ed didn't even bat an eye. "We'll get it fixed. Put it in my office and go get another one." He was truly a kind and gentle soul, and I am so grateful for the time he spent teaching me. I hope that his loved ones find comfort in knowing how much he meant to his students!

September 20 at 1:59 PM



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SM

**Stephanie (Zinda) Makela** posted:

My memory is similar to Sara's in that we were playing a medley from the Pirates of the Caribbean movie (I think my senior year in 2004) for the spring concert and it was very stormy out and the power went out. We couldn't see a thing, but the entire band kept playing. The power was starting to come back on when we finished. He taught me how to play the bassoon for concert band, and the summer before my sophomore year, he told me that he needed one and that I had the right personality to play it; hopefully that was a compliment ;) I went on the play bassoon in college for one year until my schedule didn't permit it anymore. When we went to NYC on the band trip, he called me the "band mom" because I had everything anybody could have ever needed in my bag. The band room was a haven, and somewhere that I spent so much time even outside of band class. He taught me music theory, a class he told me he doesn't teach very often, and only if there was interest. He only taught that class to me and a few other students, but he was willing to do that for only a few of us because he enjoyed it. And I learned so much and I am incredibly grateful that he gave me that opportunity that I might not otherwise have had due to low interest. So many memories, I can't narrow it to one, but he was a spectacular teacher and I am lucky to have known him. He will be missed.

September 20 at 11:08 AM

KD

**Katie (Schaes) Davis** September 20 at 1:27 PM

Playing the Pirates medley is one of my favorite band memories too! I also remember he jokingly offered me a scatting solo for jazz band because I had just barely learned trumpet and was not comfortable doing a solo that way. He was such an excellent teacher. A great loss, indeed.

JM

**Jan Mundt** posted:

Eddie, Erin and families, you have my sympathy. I have many fun memories of your dad in our neighborhood - Several teachers and gatherings discussing the world's problems and how to solve them, always interesting were the band trips we chaperoned, and many more. Sending hugs and my love. Jan

September 20 at 10:39 AM

P8

**Pam Staggs Petersen (Class Of '82)** posted:

As a former student of Mr. McMahon, I will always remember his kindness. He had a warm smile and made music fun. He saw potential in us that we may not have realized. Some of my fondest high school memories are of band, and I'm forever grateful that he was my teacher. Rest in peace, Mr. McMahon.

September 20 at 8:48 AM



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**Sara Collins** posted:

It's hard to pick just one happy memory of Mr. McMahon. Whether it was how happy 'Mr. Ed' looked playing clarinet in the 'double reed ensemble' at my wedding, any of the many trips to various honor bands, geeking out with me about Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals in general and Cats in particular, seeing that wonderful dry sense of humor in full swing while issuing 'citations for a Charlie Horse Award' at the end of each marching band season, a particularly profound performance of a band piece called 'Journey to Millenium' after a power-failure occurred during it during a concert, or any of the many other happy memories from several years of most of my spare moments being spent in the band room, Mr. Ed was a fantastic influence in my early years. He will be greatly missed.

September 20 at 4:15 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Edward by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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