

JOHN W. McALLISTER



John W. “Jake” McAllister, 92, of Summerfield, Florida, passed away March 3, 2023, under the care of Hospice. He was born on January 24, 1931 in Jacksonville, to Carl and Blanche McAllister.

Jake was a veteran of the United States Army. He resided most of his life in Jacksonville while having his hand in the grocery business. Jake’s grandfather owned a grocery store on Pearl Street and his father owned one in Garden City at Dunn Avenue and Lem Turner Road. Later down the road, Carl joined up with Earl Huntley running the Banner Food Store located at Lem Turner Road and Trout River Boulevard.

The time came for Jake to have the opportunities to buy out his father and then later Earl Huntley. This is when “Jake” became well known in the community. Anyone living on the northside of Jacksonville probably remembers this store its friendly atmosphere while shopping.

The produce man would select the produce after the shopper told him what they wanted, put it in a brown paper bag, set it on the scales, and write the price on the bag with the black wax pencil.

Move on back to the unique meat market where you experienced the same personal service while gazing through the glass displaying the variety of meats for the customers’ choosing. The butcher knew your name, remembered your preferences and wrapped it in the brown wax coated paper. Using the old-style cash registers, the cashiers rang up your grocery items one by one. Again, it was the same friendly service you received throughout the store.

While shopping, it was nothing to see Jake roaming through the store, calling his customers by name, or hollering down to them from his open office located at the front of the store which was only accessible by a ladder. He was able to see all the action in the store from his perch.

In 1995, Jake and his wife, Martha, moved to Summerfield, Florida, so they could enjoy their retirement years together. Jake was an avid golfer. Martha became one herself and ended up staying in the golfing world longer than Jake. He picked up biking and loved his biking buddies. Jake was the “leader” of the group who chose where their weekly ride would take them and which restaurant would be honored with their presence. Jake was predeceased by his parents; a son Barry; and a sister Rosalie West.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 29 years, Martha; a daughter Sheila McAllister; son Kevin (Theresa) McAllister; stepdaughter Debbie (Lee) Walsh; stepson Marshall (Dan) Bowden; sister Carolee Geiger; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 11 at 11 a.m. at Garden City Methodist Church in Jacksonville.