



## Mr. James F. McElroy, Jr.

April 27, 1930 - July 19, 2016

McElroy, James F. (Jim) Jr. – on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. Beloved husband of Joan, father of Jim (Mary), brother of Mary Patricia, grandfather of Matthew, Deirdre, James, and John, and mentor and friend to all who knew him.

Longtime leader of the Cadets Baseball Club, Jim was involved with sandlot baseball from a young age. In 1944 he played on the first Brooklyn Cadets team, which is reported to be the oldest active amateur baseball program located in New York State. Coach McElroy was associated with the Cadets for an astounding 72 years, first as a player, then coach, manager, chairman and director, but more than that, he was the heart and soul of the organization, together with his beloved and devoted wife Joan, who served at his side.

During such a long career, he knew and coached many players who went on to sports success, including: Joe Torre (Manager, Los Angeles Dodgers and NY Yankees) Frank Torre (Boston Braves), Fred Wilpon (Owner, New York Mets), Sal Campisi (St. Louis Cardinals), Bob Aspromonte (Houston Astros), Frank Tepedino (New York Yankees), Rusty Torres (New York Yankees), Matt Galante (Houston Astros), Bob Quinn (San Francisco Giants) and George Kalafatis (Detroit Tigers).

In addition to the Cadets, he was a driving force of the AAABA (All American Amateur Baseball Association), headquartered in Johnstown, PA, an organization dedicated to advancing youth baseball. Having played in their annual tournament as a teenager, Jim stayed with the AAABA, coaching and managing several teams that made it to the annual summer classic, then

serving as its president, liaison and historian for their national committee. He also was a staunch committee member of the AAABA Hall of Fame, responsible for the induction of many former major league and division one college players who had spent their formative years playing in the tournament. He was so dedicated to coaching and being part of the tournament, that when his son, James III (Jim) was being born, he kept an open phone line to the press box so he could hear the play-by-play of his Brooklyn team winning the championship. Local baseball was close to his heart, and he coached for St. Francis College while becoming assistant athletic director and earning his Bachelor's Degree magna cum laude in 1977. Jim always was a part of baseball and garnered inductions into the Parade Grounds League Hall of Fame, AAABA Hall of Fame, Saint Francis College Hall of Fame, CW Post Baseball Program Hall of Fame and the Brooklyn Sandlot Hall of Fame. He was honored at Shea Stadium in 1977 by the Greater New York Mets Boosters, and received numerous awards including the USA Baseball National Volunteer Coach of the Year (1993); the Steve Lembo Award from the New York Professional Baseball Hot Stove League (1994), and the National Golden Diamond Award for Coach of the Year (1993).

A printer by trade, Jim rose in the field of financial printing to become a Customer Service Representative, responsible for making sure jobs were done right, on time, and to the satisfaction of demanding customers. His attention to detail, diligence, quick wit, and charming personality made him successful in this endeavor.

After his retirement, as if running the Cadets Baseball Club were not enough, Jim became the Executive Director of the Catholic High School Athletic Association for the Diocese of Brooklyn. There he served as a liaison between the high school principals and athletic directors, where his intricate knowledge of sports, ability to manage diverse viewpoints, and knack for cutting to the heart of an issue allowed him to handle issues that arose with aplomb. His sense of fairness boosted the cause of girls' sports in particular, and this April Jim was inducted into the Girls Catholic High

School Athletic Association Diocese of Brooklyn Hall of Fame.

Jim will always be remembered for being the mainstay of Cadets Baseball, where he encouraged players, coaches, and managers, and for his invaluable contribution to the sport of baseball in its purest, most joyful form – that comes from fair play for the love of the game, and how it helps young people pursue their best selves. Jim's beloved wife, Joan, his sister, Mary Patricia, his daughter-in-law Mary, and his grandchildren, Matthew, Deirdre, James, and John, will remember and cherish his love, guidance, and continuing influence in our lives.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1100 East Broad Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 21. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

James P. Byrnes Funeral Home  
2384 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229  
(718) 743-1099  
jpbyrnesfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.jamespbyrnesfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

JUL 21. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

James P. Byrnes Funeral Home  
2384 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229  
(718) 743-1099  
jpbyrnesfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.jamespbyrnesfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral

JUL 22. 9:15 AM (ET)

James P. Byrnes Funeral Home  
2384 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11229  
(718) 743-1099  
jpbyrnesfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.jamespbyrnesfuneralhome.com>

## Mass

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd  
1950 Batchelder St  
Brooklyn, NY 11229

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ sorry to hear about the passing of this great man, condolences to the family. Will always remember how much fun i had playing baseball in marine park for the cadets. Mr. McElroy taught us how to play hard, to be fair and to respect the other team. He will be missed.

*Very truly yours,*

*Paul Wiedemann*

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**paul** - July 28, 2016 at 05:11 PM

JH

“ Our condolences to the McElroy family. Jim was a great dedicated man, leader and mentor. He helped us through the process to start up the Las Vegas Cadets in 1999. I always enjoyed visiting with him when I was in town. He will be missed.

*Jerry and Lynette Heaney*

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**Jerry Heaney** - July 21, 2016 at 03:46 PM

DH

“ My deepest condolences to Joan, Mary, Jim's four grandchildren, and his sister Mary Patricia. Jim was a wonderful man. The administrators and athletes of the CHSAA have been deeply enriched by Jim being our Executive Director. He made the CHSAA a better organization. I personally enjoyed our talks on the phone after he stepped down as Executive Director. He always kept the CHSAA in his mind and heart. Once Jim got involved with something he gave it his all and that was true of the CHSAA even after he stepped down. I will miss our talks and checking in on him. I know he is in a better place. Thank you to Joan for putting up with all of the CHSAA business at home. I am a better person for having gotten to know you. Your family will always hold a special place in my heart. God Bless the McElroy family during this difficult time and always.

*Denise Hillig, Girls' President - CHSAA*

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Denise Hillig - July 21, 2016 at 03:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James F. McElroy, Jr. .



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July 21, 2016 at 08:05 AM

RR

“ A true legend in Sandlot baseball in Metro NY. What he did for the Cadets BBC will never be forgotten by the thousands of us whose lives he touched. He's probably explaining to St Peter that the squeeze sign is his hand across his chest. From Marine Park, Prospect Park, to Johnstown and beyond. Thanks coach for all you did. Rest in Peace.

To Joan--We, who know, appreciate your love and support as a "baseball wife".. God Bless.

Rich Russano

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Richard Russano - July 20, 2016 at 09:21 PM

JS

“ My deepest sympathies go out to the McElroy family. My baseball experience at St. Francis College is remembered fondly because of Coach Mac. It was my pleasure to play for him from '67-'70. I can see him now, picking up a few pebbles for luck and depositing them in his back pocket as he strides down to the third base coaching box in heaven. A gentle man, and a giant of a coach.

Jack Sheedy

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jack Sheedy - July 20, 2016 at 07:10 PM

MH

“ OUR DEEPEST sympathies and condolences to Mrs. McElroy and family. What a lovely man who has shared many wonderful memories for the Cadet organization. We will continue to make you proud.

Our prayers and love,  
Staten Island 10U Cadet Team

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Manager Fred Hassel - July 20, 2016 at 02:18 PM

LG

“ *Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to the family and friends of James.  
Rest in Peace.*

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**Little Saint Religious Goods** - July 20, 2016 at 01:43 PM