



James McFarlane

September 28, 1939 - April 20, 2025

James Michael McFarlane, beloved husband, father, brother, and innovator in academic computing, passed away peacefully, on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio—just two days after the passing of his cherished wife, Patricia. Their nearly 60-year marriage was a profound testament to enduring love, quiet strength, and shared adventure.

Born in Oklahoma City on September 28, 1939, James graduated from Northwest Classen High School and went on to attend the University of Oklahoma, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mathematics. During this time James served as a lieutenant in the United States Army, stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. It was also at OU that he met Patricia Anne Treseder, the love of his life. They were married on January 21, 1965, beginning a partnership filled with devotion, intellect, and joy.

After their wedding, James and Patricia moved to Colorado, where he worked for Martin Marietta, applying his mathematical expertise as a missile programmer. He later moved to Middletown, Connecticut, to pursue postgraduate work at Wesleyan University, where he became an early pioneer in academic computing. He went on to serve as the director of Wesleyan's computer center, leading one of the first major efforts to integrate technology into higher education—a passion he continued throughout his career.

His professional life spanned several decades in academia, with leadership roles in higher education institutions including Wesleyan and community colleges in the Houston area. James found great purpose in building systems and solving problems behind the scenes, quietly shaping the technological landscape that supported students and faculty alike.

James and Patricia made their homes in Denver, Middletown, Friendswood, The Woodlands, and ultimately Norman, Oklahoma, where they retired near their beloved OU. In retirement, they traveled the world together, making memories in places both distant and dear.

A devoted and steady presence, James was a loving father to Glen McFarlane of Connecticut and Ann-Michel Kissler of Ohio. He rarely missed a game, recital, or event, always offering quiet encouragement and support. At home, he cultivated a wide array of interests and hobbies, approaching each with thoughtfulness and curiosity.

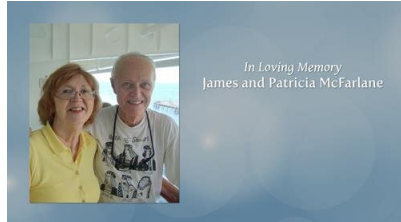
He is survived by his children, Glen and Ann-Michel; his sister, Lynda McFarlane of Edmond, Oklahoma; and his brother-in-law, Frank Treseder in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia; his father, George Alexander McFarlane; and his mother, Sallie Agnes McFarlane.

James leaves behind a legacy of intelligence, humility, service, and love. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those whose lives he touched.

Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James McFarlane*



Rutherford Funeral Homes - May 22, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of James McFarlane, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Army Veteran, James Michael McFarlane, is "A True American Hero" God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - May 06, 2025 at 06:33 AM