

## POPULAR VETERAN DIES

By Lindsay McReynolds

**COOKEVILLE** — A popular veteran who would have celebrated his 90th birthday today has died.

**Sterling McCanless**, 89, who served as the Putnam County Veterans service officer for 17 years, passed away Sunday evening at his Cookeville home.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, McCanless enlisted in 1944 as a 17-year-old in the U. S. Navy and put in two years. He returned to the Navy in 1951, serving until 1955. McCanless also served in the National Guard for 30 years.



“He’s been in failing health for a couple of years,” Phillip McCanless, one of Sterling and his wife, Pat’s, three sons, said Monday. “His heart gave out on him.”

McCanless was known for his work helping veterans receive benefits. He was also involved in other community service organizations.

“Everybody liked him,” said county archivist Glenn Jones of the Putnam County Archives and Veterans Hall. McCanless’s military service is featured in a showcase there.

Phillip recalled a story written about his father entitled, “Dedicated Veterans Helping Veterans.”

McCanless was a vocal proponent of Veterans Drive, which runs from Neal Street to Walnut Avenue, when the Cookeville City Council changed the name of a portion of that road in 2002.

In an interview with the Herald-Citizen more than a decade ago, McCanless spoke to a reporter about war maneuvers held in Putnam County. At the time, the 17-year-old was working counting chickens for his father and was also employed at the old Kroger store on West Broad Street in Cookeville.

"The terrain here (in Putnam County) was a whole lot like that in Europe," McCanless said. "That's why there were so many maneuvers."

In addition to his wife and son, Phillip, McCanless is also survived by sons, Scott and Greg.

Funeral services will be Thursday, July 21, at 11 a.m. at Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ with Buddy Johnson officiating. Interment, with military honors, will follow in Cookeville City Cemetery.

Sterling's family will receive friends Wednesday from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home and Thursday from 10 a.m. until service time at the church.

A complete obituary will be published in a later issue of the Herald-Citizen.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 18 July 2016

**Arthur Sterling McCanless Obt.**

b. 18 July 1926, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 17 July 2016, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, (US Navy WWII), md on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1955, Putnam Co., TN to **Patrenia “Pat” Jean (Phillips) McCanless**, b. 20 June 1931. Arthur Sterling McCanless, s/o **Preston Clayton McCanless** (1894-1959) & **Henrietta Tee Jones** (1891-1969).

\*See Preston Clayton McCanless buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 143 – Arthur Sterling McCanless married 7 August 1955, Putnam Co., TN, age 29, b. 18 July 1926, address: Box 374, Cookeville, TN to Patrenia Jean Phillips, age 24, b. 20 June 1931, address: 354 Bunker Hill Road, Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian, or next of kin of female: Mrs. Lola Phillips, 354 Bunker Hill Road, Cookeville, TN).

Funeral services for Mr. Arthur Sterling McCanless, age 89 of Cookeville, will be held Thursday July 21 at 11 a.m. at Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ with Buddy Johnson and Bobby Lane officiating. Interment, with Military Honors, will follow in Cookeville City Cemetery. His family will receive friends Wednesday from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home and Thursday from 10 a.m. until service time at the church.

Sterling died suddenly Sunday evening July 17, 2016 at his home.



He was born July 18, 1926 in Cookeville, Tennessee to the late Preston Clayton (PC) and Henrietta Tee Jones McCanless.

Sterling was a 1948 graduate of Cookeville High School and a life-long member of Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ.

Sterling served with the U. S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He was a long-time member of VFW Post 46.

Sterling worked a number of years in Food and Insurance Sales and retired after 19 years of service as the Putnam County Veterans Service Officer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Preston McCanless, and Alvin Clayton McCanless; and two sisters, Laura Langford and Lera Masters.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Patrenia “Pat” Jean Phillips McCanless (whom he married August 7, 1955 in Cookeville); three sons and two daughters-in-law, Phillip and Hazel McCanless , Scott McCanless all of Cookeville, and Greg and Lisa McCanless of Boise, Idaho; five grandchildren, Evan McCanless, Lorren Jones, Josh Niles, Ashley Niles, and Nara Bromback; and two sisters, Alma Canfield of Lexington, KY and Emily Owens of Tuscumbia, AL.

Pallbearers will be Evan McCanless, Mike McCanless, Nick Jones, Jason Beaty, Bryan Crabtree, Tyler Young, Jerry White, and David Fox.

Memorial contributions may be made to Happy Haven Children's Home 2311 Wakefield Drive, Cookeville, TN 38501.

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\*Read more about the veterans in "With Our Armed Forces" at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>