

Memorial Resolution

The Presbytery of St. Augustine

In Memory of the Rev. Herbert Grey McGrath

August 19, 1937 - October 4, 2016

Whereas memorial resolutions are almost always full of the term, “whereas,” herein lies a problem. For whereas the Rev. Herbert Grey McGrath was not a whereas-kind-of-person, let it be resolved that this shall be the final “whereas” of this resolution.

Rather, let it be said that:

Herbert Grey McGrath was born to loving parents in Bronx, NY in the heat of a hot August 19th, 1937.

Eight years later Herb moved with his family to Virginia, eventually to graduate high school, and then to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

A proud patriot, Herb followed his father’s example and became a Marine, successfully completing intense training at Paris Island. He served in the Marine Reserves for six years.

Feeling an inescapable call by God into ordained ministry, Herb earned his Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt. He was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in 1964.

The now Rev. McGrath was uniquely gifted for ministry to smaller churches. In addition to crafting and preaching excellent sermons, he truly had a pastor’s heart for his congregants. He served with enthusiasm and integrity in small churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Herb married Terry Hall in 1960. Together they adopted, and were blessed by, two children, Marian and William. Later the couple separated, and Herb assumed the major role in raising his son and daughter.

Pastor Herb, as he came to be known, had a love of comics, particularly *Peanuts*. In fact he was co-owner of Imaginasia Comic Book Shop in Hopkinsville, KY, from 1986 – 1995.

In God's providential manner, it was through that comics store that Herb met Melita Cummins, to whom he was married on May 26, 1990.

Herb and Melita moved to Ocala, FL in 2002. Becoming a member of this presbytery, he preached in many churches over the years. Melita joined Countryside Presbyterian Church. Pastor Herb was a vital part of Countryside's ministry, in particular leading a weekly comprehensive Bible Study.

Herb was a "good and gentle man," a loving husband, a caring parent to Marian Ramsey and William McGrath, and a proud grandpa to Julia, Christopher, and Tyler Ramsey, as well as Andrew, Madison, and Ethan McGrath, and Christopher Cross.

And last, but certainly not least, Rev. Herbert Grey McGrath was one of those relatively rare people who actually believed, and lived, Galatians 3:28.

Therefore, let it be resolved that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the 2017 Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.

Humbly and respectfully submitted by Rev. Gary O. Marshall