



Brian J. McCabe

January 25, 1947 - January 20, 2026

Albany, NY-Our beloved Brian J. McCabe died Tuesday night, January 20, 2026 just a few days shy of his 79th birthday. He died peacefully at St. Peter's Hospital. He was diagnosed with cancer a year ago and fought courageously through every setback that came his way. The cancer treatments he received were effectively holding his cancer at bay but couldn't continue after his fall and related fractures in October.

Born January 25, 1947 in Jersey City, NJ, he was the son of the late William and Mary (Gallagher) McCabe. His mother Mary having died at a young age, the late Agnes Norman McCabe became his stepmother. He loved them all.

Brian grew up in Avon by the Sea, NJ where he began his love of the shore. He later moved to Franklin Lakes, NJ and attended Ramapo High School. He received his Bachelor's degree at Siena College (University) where he met his lifelong friends from the Class of '68. He spent two years in the army in El Paso during the Vietnam War, earning the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Returning from service to his country, he went to SUNY Albany for his Master's degree in Social Work, later earning clinical licensure.

Brian was a Professor in the Human Services Department at Hudson Valley Community College for nearly 40 years. He started the Chemical Dependency Program there, developed its curriculum and field placements, and is credited

with preparing highly qualified staff for addictions recovery treatment in our surrounding community.

We can tell you that he earned a Lifetime Achievement Award and the SUNY President's and Chancellor's Awards but he was modest about those, though deeply grateful for the recognition. At his retirement gathering, the HVCC auditorium was packed by those wanting to honor him at his "Last Class". He was a major force in the addictions recovery field, in the lives of his students and colleagues, and in the growth of the community he served. Brian also touched the lives of those he served in his therapy practice, reaching beyond serving the recovery field to individuals, couples and families in need. He cared deeply for them and they in turn benefited from his compassion, wisdom, and down to earth treatment approach.

Brian met Gail during his years at Siena. He became her best friend and beloved husband, married for over 54 years, grateful for having found one another. Gail says thank you dear Brian for loving me the way you did.

Brian leaves behind his three beloved daughters and sons, Jess (Karl) Johnson, Libby (Scott) Nowakowski, and Carrie (Matt Griffiths) McCabe and his cherished grandchildren, Molly Johnson, Kai Johnson, Mickey Nowakowski, Wes Previterra, and Archie Nowakowski. He joyfully loved being their Dad and Pop and they in turn loved him deeply. He was sad to leave them. Please say a prayer to help them through this devastating loss.

Brian is survived by his dearly loved brothers and sisters, Bill (Anne) McCabe, Maryellen (John) Heuer, James McCabe, and Anne (Eric) Nordell and dear sisters-in-law MaryAnn Frering and Margie Groark. He is also survived by his beloved Aunt Jackie Gallagher and by his cherished nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and cousins, each holding a special place in his heart.

He was predeceased by his beloved parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and his dear brother David McCabe, brother-in-law Donald Frering, and sister and brother-in-law Maureen and Eddie Rhatigan.

Brian was blessed to have his much loved and lifelong friends with whom he shares beautiful bonds and memories of times well spent together. He cherished those friendships and dearly loved you.

We want to thank all the medical staff who helped Brian through this year of triumphs and setbacks, with special note to Oncologist Dr Luyun and oncology nurse Liz, infusion nurse Carolyn Whittaker and assistant Frank (who Brian called Mike), St Peter's hospital staff, especially those on the 5th floor where Brian spent the most time in recent weeks, Primary Care Richard Clark and his staff, and Oncologist Dr. Pintova at Mt. Sinai in NYC. Their care was brilliant, compassionate, and devoted. Thank you to the receptionists, nurses, and therapists at Eddy Visiting Nurse Association, Albany Visiting Nurse Association, and Sunnyview Rehab Center, who worked so hard and devotedly to help him recover. A heartfelt thank you as well to his home caretakers Faith Ward, Ny Youman, Roberta Cain, Mary Marae, and Billie Jo D'Angelo who treated Brian with skill, love, and gentle care. A special shout out to the remarkable parking valets at St. Peter's Hospital who served us with steady care and compassion throughout the long year of treatment, helping Brian in and out of the car with all his tubes and equipment.

Brian was an extraordinary man who loved his family and friends and served his community. His laughter will always ring on in our hearts. We only wish we could hear it again.

Funeral services Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 2:30 pm at St. Mary of the

Angels Chapel at Siena University, Loudonville, NY. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Brian's family prior to the Mass, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

For those wishing to make a donation in Brian's memory, the family requests it be given to "The Spirit of '68 Fund" at Development Office, Siena University, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY 12211. The fund supports Franciscan values.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary of the Angels Chapel at Siena University
515 Loudon Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
(518) 783-2300
<http://Siena.Edu>

Funeral Mass

JAN 27. 2:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary of the Angels Chapel at Siena University
515 Loudon Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
(518) 783-2300
<http://Siena.Edu>

Cemetery Service

JAN 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Agnes Cemetery
48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Tribute Wall

RA

“ My family was lucky to have a neighbor like Mr. McCabe for more than 40 years. There was never a time that I passed by him without receiving a smile & a wave. I'll make sure to keep waving & smiling as I drive past the McCabe's home.

Sending love to the McCabe's.

Rich Akullian - January 27 at 11:18 AM

MM

*Gail and family,
We are truly saddened to hear about Brian's passing. From Siena days to HVCC, Brian brought such energy, joy, and enthusiasm to whatever he was doing.*

What a deep loss, but also what wonderful memories.

Thinking and praying for you

Maria & Roger Markovics

Maria Markovics - January 29 at 03:45 PM

KN

“ Dear Gail and family,

I was deeply saddened to hear of Brian's passing. He was a beloved colleague, and I feel honored to have worked alongside him at HVCC for decades.

Through his leadership, the Chemical Dependency Counseling program was designated a "Flagship Program" in New York State - an achievement that speaks to his vision, dedication, and commitment to excellence. He was a gifted teacher and a true role model for future counselors.

For the past few days I have been flooded with memories of Brian. I deeply valued his positivity, compassion and support. Brian brought joyfulness and kindness to our department every day. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy through the many lives he touched. My thoughts are with you, and I wish I could be there in person to express my sympathy.

*Sincerely
Karen Nash*

Karen Nash - January 27 at 08:58 AM

BF

“ *This is a tremendous loss, and my heart goes out to Brian's family. I was lucky enough to be a student of Brian's, and he later mentored me into his position at HVCC. Every student he had (including myself) left HVCC with countless "McCabeisms." These were simple pearls of wisdom that always proved true in the helping profession - and in life. I was also always struck by his sense of humour, his compassion and empathy for others, and his refusal to take himself too seriously. He was one in a million - a true man among men.*

Brian Farr - January 26 at 08:15 PM

KC

“ Gail and girls,
We have been out of town and just heard about Brian’s passing. We are keeping you all in our prayers. We would pass Brian walking in the neighborhood. He was always kind and friendly. we can’t make the services but please let us know if there is anything we can do.
Fondly, Karen and John Cahill

karen cahill - January 26 at 07:25 PM

JC

“ So many memories of the young men who entered Siena in 1964 coming from all parts of the country - filled with hopes, dreams and expectations.... Many, if not all of us unsure of where life would take us. Brian embodied the values of the Franciscan tradition, especially those of fraternity, joy and compassion for others. Brian left this world a better place simply by his presence. Thank you Brian ...
John and Joyce Chupka.

john chupka - January 26 at 12:07 PM

JC

“ To Brian's Family,
I worked with Brian many years ago at LaSalle School. It was my first job and Brian was a young social worker there, working with the boys that lived there. He was such a gentle soul and kind man. May he rest in peace. I am so sorry for your loss... hold tight to your memories. Julie Card

Julie A Card - January 26 at 12:03 PM

TM

“ Dear Gail and Family,
So sad to hear the news about Brian. Truly, one of the "good guys."
Please keep sharing the family photos on FB. What better way to
remember Brian than to watch your next generation grow.
Tony Marsallo

tony marsallo - January 26 at 11:24 AM

ST

“ Dear Gail and Family,
I am so sad and sorry to learn of Brian's passing. I fondly remember
him as the first person to welcome me to Woodscape Drive so long
ago...and he was a great neighbor for 10+ years. I will keep all of
you in my thoughts and prayers.
Susan Tobin

Susan Tobin - January 25 at 10:59 PM

TF

“ The Koos Family purchased the Simply Elegant
Spathiphyllum for the family of Brian J. McCabe.



The Koos Family - January 25 at 09:40 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the
family of Brian J. McCabe.



January 24 at 05:03 PM

LM

“ Love, MaryAnn & Margie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brian J. McCabe.



Love, MaryAnn & Margie - January 24 at 12:50 PM

RM

“ To the all the family and Friends of Brian, we only knew him for a short time but his compassion and sensitivity leaves a sweet memory. We are sad for your loss, but he obviously touched so many who will carry on his story. Ross and Kathleen McCabe

Ross B. McCabe - January 24 at 12:42 PM

LH

“ Thinking of you and your family Carrie, I'm so sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Lynn Hasselbarth

Lynn (Hasselbarth) Horan - January 24 at 12:27 PM

KS

“ To Gail and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. I am unable to attend Brian's service, but please know he and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Sending my sincere condolences. Love to you, and all who loved Brian at this different time.
Kathy

Kathy Schongar - January 24 at 12:03 PM

JN

“ So sad to hear this, McCabes. Your dad always struck me as such a kind and gentle guy. He wore it in his expression. Can only image the thousands of people he was a comfort to in his profession. Be gentle with yourselves in the weeks and months to come. We feel for you and will be thinking of you. -- Jess Neidl

Jessica Fisher Neidl - January 23 at 03:36 PM

RL

“ Robert L. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Brian J. McCabe.



Robert L. - January 23 at 10:05 AM

RL

“ Robert L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brian J. McCabe.

Robert L. - January 23 at 10:05 AM

LP

“ Dear Gail and family,
When I think of Brian I can still hear his laugh and good fellowship. We had so many good times with the old Siena crew! He fought a good fight and I hope he is at peace. Keep his stories alive as I know that will be a comfort. My love and prayers for all of you. Liz Pollock

Liz Pollock - January 23 at 09:57 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian J. McCabe.*



January 23 at 06:38 AM



“ *My dearest Gail and family, I will remember Brian and all of your family in my daily prayers. I am sure he had a difficult journey these last months but I know he is with God and will now be at peace. God bless you..*

Beverly Huba McCasland - January 23 at 04:31 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Brian J. McCabe.*



January 22 at 02:10 PM