

Glen McCormick

March 21, 1934 – December 22, 2005

(From Genealogybank.com)

STUART -- Glen McCormick, who fought for better medical care for veterans, died at his home Thursday night of liver cancer. He was 71.

A native of Covington, Va., McCormick earned a doctorate in speech sciences from Purdue University and devoted most of his life to helping the hearing impaired. He served for 23 years as a senior audiologist for the Veterans Administration, and opened the VA medical center in Riviera Beach as chief audiologist and speech therapist.

"We never argued; we laughed a lot," recalled his wife, Judy McCormick. "He had overcome so much in his life."

McCormick's father died three months before he was born. McCormick's mother was burned fatally in a fire while pregnant with him, and McCormick was delivered before she died.

"He wasn't supposed to live," his wife said.

McCormick was raised by relatives in Hinson, W.Va., graduated from West Virginia University and then went to Purdue. He also served as an aerographer in the weather division of the Marine Corps air wing in Korea in the mid-1950s.

After holding several teaching posts, one at his alma mater, West Virginia University, he joined the VA medical system at Butler, Pa., where he became chief of audiology and speech pathology. When plans were made to open the VA center in Riviera Beach, he was sent to help open the hospital.

But it was after he retired in 1998 that McCormick became a major influence for veterans health care in Florida and especially on the Treasure Coast.

He discovered thousands of veterans suffering hearing loss because of combat during their younger years, but who were being turned down for VA benefits. The

VA maintained the hearing loss was because of age, but McCormick argued and was able to prove most of the loss was a cumulative result of combat or from being around un-muffled military aircraft and engines.

"Hearing loss is progressive and insidious," McCormick explained to VA boards and to the veterans. "It goes across a lifetime. It always gets worse."

McCormick was a member of the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Korean War Veterans Association. He served most of those organizations as a medical adviser, but was commandant of the Martin County Chapter of the Marine Corps League.

He is survived by his wife and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Christie Schueffler.

Funeral plans are incomplete, but his wife says a ceremony will probably be at the Hobe Sound VFW on Jan. 2.

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