

Mary E. Culler

McConnellsburg, 94
Mary Edith Culler, 94, McConnellsburg, died Tuesday August 28, 2018, at Fulton County Medical Center in McConnellsburg, with her children by her side.



She was born September 23, 1923, in McConnellsburg, the daughter of the late John and Mary Clugston Truax.

She was a 1940 graduate of McConnellsburg High School. She married the late Merrill Culler February 9, 1943, in Hagerstown, Md.

Early in life, she worked as a seamstress for Sagner Co. in McConnellsburg. She later purchased the White Swan Restaurant, which she owned and operated until the mid-to late 1950s. She later worked in the real estate market and in tax preparation until she retired when she was in her 80s. In her spare time, she enjoyed bingo and crocheting afghans, which she donated to various civic organizations in the Fulton County area.

She was a member of Green Hill Sewing Club, Fulton County Chamber of Commerce, Fulton County Republican Women, the Women's Auxillary of American Legion Post 561, the Women's Auxillary of FOVA Post 655 and a life member of McConnellsburg United Methodist Church.

She is survived by four children: Betty Munch Palmer (wife of Lynn), Palm Bay, Fla.; Fred (husband of Violet) Culler, McConnellsburg; and Sharon Strait, McConnellsburg, and Linda Culler, of San Diego, Calif.; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; three step-great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Truax; her husband, Merrill I Culler; one grandson, Chad Strait; three brothers: Henry, Charles and an infant George Truax, and one son-in-law, Richard Munch.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, September 4, at McConnellsburg United Methodist Church. Interment was at Union Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Fulton County Medical Center Foundation, c/o Long-Term-Care Unit, 214 Peach Orchard Rd., McConnellsburg, PA 17233. Online condolences may be expressed at www.kelso-corneliusfuneralhome.com.

McCain Buried At Naval Academy Alongside A Longtime Friend

By Susan Walsh

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) – Sen. John McCain's final journey ended last Sunday on a grassy hill at the U.S. Naval Academy within view of the Severn River and earshot of midshipmen present and future, and alongside a lifelong friend.

A horse-drawn caisson carrying the senator's casket led a procession of mourners from the academy's chapel to its cemetery following a private service. The senator's widow, Cindy, and his children were among those who walked behind the caisson. Joining them were family and friends as well as members of McCain's Class of 1958, military leaders and academy midshipmen.

About 4 p.m. a flyover of military aircraft honored the Navy pilot who was shot down over Vietnam and held more than five years as a prisoner of war. The burial was private as per the wishes of McCain, the Arizona Republican and 2008 presidential nominee died Aug. 25 from brain cancer at age 81. Vehicles that had carried mourners began leaving the area between 4:30 and 5 p.m.

One scheduled speaker at the service, Sen. Lindsey Graham, said before the service that he would tell the audience that "nobody loved a soldier more than John McCain, that I bear witness to his commitment to have their back, travel where they go, never let them be forgotten." Also expected to pay tribute were David Petraeus, a retired general and former CIA director, and McCain's son Jack.

As the hearse carrying McCain passed through a gate and into the academy, there was loud applause from the several hundred people lining the street outside on the hot and muggy summer day. Many held their hands over their hearts and waved American flags. Some shouted, "God bless you."

People in the crowd held signs that read "Senator John McCain Thanks For Serving! Godspeed" and "Rest In Peace Maverick."

For his final resting place, McCain picked the historic site overlooking the Severn River, not Arlington Nation-

al Cemetery, where his father and grandfather, both admirals, were buried.

Years ago Chuck Larson, an admiral himself and an ally throughout McCain's life, reserved four plots at the cemetery – two for McCain and himself, and two for their wives, now widows. Larson died in 2014, and McCain wrote in a recent memoir that he wanted to be buried next to his friend, "near where it began."

Among the pallbearers on a list provided by McCain's office were Frank Gamboa, his academy roommate; Defense Secretary Jim Mattis; and two men who were POWs with McCain in Vietnam, John Fer and Everett Alvarez Jr.

Tributes to McCain began Wednesday in Arizona and continued for the remainder of the week. On Saturday, speeches by his daughter Meghan and two former presidents – Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama – remembered McCain as a patriot who could bridge painful rivalries. While their remarks made clear their admiration for him, they also represented a repudiation of President Donald Trump's brand of tough-talking, divisive politics. Trump and McCain were at odds during the 2016 campaign and for much of Trump's presidency.

"There's a lesson to be learned this week about John McCain," said Graham, R-S.C.

"No. 1, Americans appreciate military service. ... If you work hard and do your homework and know what you're talking about, people will listen to you. That if you pick big causes bigger than yourself, you'll be remembered," he told "Fox News Sunday."

"He tried to drain the swamp before it was cool, that you can fight hard and still be respected. If you forgive, people appreciate it, and if you admit to mistakes, you look good as a stronger man. That's the formula, John McCain. This was a civics lesson for anybody who wanted to listen. Why do we remember this man? Because of the way he conducted his public life."

Cold, Dry Climate Shifts Linked To Neanderthal Disappearance

By Malcolm Ritter

AP SCIENCE WRITER
NEW YORK (AP) – Ancient periods of cold and dry climate helped our species replace Neanderthals in Europe, a study suggests.

Researchers found that such cold periods coincided with an apparent disappearance of our evolutionary cousins in different parts of the continent, followed by the appearance of our species, Homo sapiens.

"Whether they moved or died out, we can't tell," said Michael Staubwasser of the University of Cologne in Germany.

Neanderthals once lived in Europe and Asia but died out about 40,000 years ago, just a few thousand years after our species, Homo sapiens, arrived in Europe. Scientists have long debated what happened, and some have blamed the change in climate. Other proposed explanations have included epidemics and the idea that the newcomers edged out the Neanderthals for resources.

Staubwasser and colleagues reported their findings last Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. They drew on existing climate, archaeological and ecological data and added new indica-

tors of ancient climate from studies of two caves in Romania.

Their study highlighted two cold and dry periods. One began about 44,000 years ago and lasted about 1,000 years. The other began about 40,800 years ago and lasted six centuries. The timing of those events matches the periods when artifacts from Neanderthals disappear and signs of H. sapiens appear in sites within the Danube River valley and in France, they noted.

The climate shifts would have replaced forest with shrub-filled grassland, and H. sapiens may have been better adapted to that new environment than the Neanderthals were, so they could move in after Neanderthals disappeared, the researchers wrote.

Katerina Harvati, a Neanderthal expert at the University of Tuebingen in Germany who wasn't involved in the study, said it's helpful to have the new climate data from southeastern Eu-

rope, a region that H. sapiens is thought to have used to spread through the continent.

But she said it's unclear whether Neanderthals disappeared and H. sapiens appeared at the times the authors indicate, because the studies they cite rely on limited evidence and are sometimes open to dispute.

Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum in London said he thought the paper made a good case for an impact of the climate shifts on Neanderthals, although he believes other factors were also at work in their disappearance.

Rick Potts of the Smithsonian Institution called the study "a refreshing new look" at the species replacement.

"As has been said before, our species didn't outsmart the Neanderthals," Potts said in an email. "We simply outsurvived them. The new paper offers much to contemplate about how it occurred."

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