

Thank You Jersey City for Nearly a Century of Trust

When my grandfather, James A. McLaughlin, Sr. founded McLaughlin Funeral Home, he envisioned a business rooted in compassion and care. Little did he know the profound impact it would have on so many lives in Jersey City and beyond. If he were able to see the legacy he created, I believe he would be both amazed and grateful, acknowledging that we had an extraordinary journey.

I know he, like my father, James A. McLaughlin, Jr., thought of what we did as a “family” business. Not in the sense of employing only people who shared the McLaughlin name (and there were many of us), but a family of people who chose to join us over the years.

Our devoted funeral directors, pallbearers, hairdressers, embalmers, ushers, and carry men, including funeral directors Vinny Grauso, Kevin Heath, Neil O'Donnell, Chris Baranok and the late Jack McLaughlin, Harold lungermann, Tom Faix, Ken Forrester, Tim Keller, Lou Esposito & Rich Molitor and support staff: My aunt, Jane McLaughlin Dalton, Cathy Murphy, Rosa Cruz, Rich and Bob Donnelly, Kevin Kelly, Billy Waddleton, Lou Vitulano & Rachel Riccio and too many others to name, became part of the McLaughlin family. Their unwavering dedication allowed us to provide compassionate care and service to the families of Jersey City.

I believe there are few occasions as intimate and personal as preparing to bury a loved one. There is grief, of course, and surprise and anger and even sometimes laughter and joy. But, for us – for our family, it was all about compassion and responsibility – helping to prepare each family with a loving and beautiful way to say goodbye. It was not lost upon us, the significant trust that these families placed with our family. I take tremendous solace and gratitude knowing the families we served appreciated all we did for them.

Jersey City holds a special place in our hearts. It is not just a hometown but a deep-rooted connection that has shaped generations of the McLaughlin family. My dad – “Jim” or “Mac” to many, would say no matter where he was in this world he could find some connection back to Jersey City – it was this intimate connection that gave us a unique and powerful bond with our community.

We are truly grateful for all that the community has given us throughout the years. Your unwavering support has allowed us to fulfill our purpose in providing care and comfort during life's most challenging moments.

As we conclude this chapter, I want to leave you with a sentiment often found on prayer cards, something my sisters and I chose for our parents' own farewells:

"Grieve not...nor speak of me with tears...but laugh and talk of me as though I were beside you. I loved you so... 'twas Heaven here with you."

May we be remembered as caretakers of both the departed and the living, absorbing the laughter, the memories shared, and the love we experienced together within Jersey City.

With deepest appreciation,

Maryellen McLaughlin
McLaughlin Funeral Home