



Shelton Murrell McCollum

April 13, 1936 - January 27, 2026

Shelton Murrell McCollum, lovingly known as Murrell, passed away peacefully at home on January 27, 2026, at the age of 89. Born on April 13, 1936, Murrell lived a long, full life defined by hard work, quiet generosity, and deep devotion to family, craft, and community.

Murrell was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 57 years, Betty Ann McCollum, the great love and steady companion of his life. He is survived by his sister Velma Kathryn Fisher, his daughter Kimberly Ann McCollum Mele and her husband, Scott Mele; and his son Michael Dwayne McCollum and his wife, Mischelle McCollum.

He was a constant presence in their lives—steady, supportive, and proud in ways both spoken and unspoken. Murrell served his country honorably in the United States Army, with assignments both in Korea and stateside. After returning home, he began his working life as an electrician with Western Electric, a role that reflected his natural aptitude for hands-on problem solving. That skill and work ethic eventually led him to open McCollum's Upholstery, a small business that became a local fixture. More than a shop, it was a place where customers often became friends, drawn as much by Murrell's craftsmanship as by his integrity.

In retirement, Murrell found new creative expression through woodworking,

quickly developing into a highly accomplished artist whose work reflected patience, precision, and pride. He also remained devoted to one of his lifelong passions: his 1956 Chevy BelAir, which he purchased brand new as a teenager and lovingly restored multiple times over the decades—a tangible thread connecting his youth to the present.

Murrell had a deep fondness for animals of all kinds and a tender heart for those most easily overlooked. He made a quiet habit of ensuring even feral animals were fed and cared for, asking for nothing in return. Above all, Murrell will be remembered as a man who showed his love through action—by fixing what was broken, creating what was needed, and caring for those around him. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the work of his hands, and the family who carries his memory forward.