

# Gone but Not Forgotten: A Comprehensive Look at the Life, Death, and Funeral of Blues Legend Jerry "Boogie" McCain

Jerry "Boogie" McCain was a legendary blues musician whose raw and soulful sound left an enduring mark on the genre. Hailing from the Mississippi Delta, McCain's music captured the essence of the blues, blending traditional Delta rhythms with a unique and infectious energy. His talent as a guitarist and vocalist earned him widespread acclaim, solidifying his place among the most revered blues artists of all time.

In this comprehensive article, we delve into the extraordinary life, untimely death, and poignant funeral of Jerry "Boogie" McCain. We explore his early beginnings, musical influences, and the profound impact he made on the blues community. Moreover, we provide an intimate account of his passing and the heartfelt tributes paid to him by fellow musicians and fans alike.

## Early Life and Musical Influences

Jerry McCain was born on July 10, 1930, in Drew, Mississippi, a small town nestled in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Growing up in a musical family, he was surrounded by the sounds of blues, gospel, and country music. From a young age, he developed a fascination with the guitar, and by his early teens, he was already honing his skills as a self-taught musician.

**"I'm Gone." The Life, Death, and Funeral of Blues Legend Jerry "Boogie" McCain.** by Will Bevis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 527 KB



Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 62 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 363 pages
Item Weight	: 18.96 pounds
Dimensions	: 6.5 x 9.45 x 0.75 inches



McCain's musical influences were deeply rooted in the Delta blues tradition. He drew inspiration from legendary bluesmen such as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and Elmore James. Their raw and emotive playing styles resonated with McCain, and he sought to emulate their authenticity while infusing his own unique touch.

## **Rise to Fame and Musical Legacy**

By the late 1950s, McCain had gained recognition for his exceptional guitar work and soulful vocals. In 1961, he was approached by record producer Lillian McMurry, who offered him a chance to record his debut album. The album, simply titled "Jerry Boogie McCain," was a critical and commercial success, establishing him as a rising star in the blues scene.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, McCain continued to release a series of acclaimed albums, including "Rollin' and Tumblin'" (1966), "Let's Roll" (1968), and "Hard Times" (1972). His music gained popularity beyond the blues community, attracting a diverse audience that appreciated his raw energy and authentic Mississippi Delta sound.

McCain's distinctive style was characterized by his innovative use of slide guitar and his powerful, emotive vocals. His slide guitar playing was both technically proficient and deeply expressive, capturing the essence of the blues in its purest form. His vocals were equally impressive, conveying a raw and unvarnished emotion that resonated with listeners of all ages.

## **Untimely Death and Legacy**

Tragically, Jerry "Boogie" McCain passed away on February 16, 2018, at the age of 87. His death was a profound loss to the blues community and the music world as a whole. The cause of his death was complications from a stroke he had suffered several months earlier.

McCain's legacy as a blues legend will endure for generations to come. His music continues to be played and enjoyed by blues enthusiasts worldwide, and his influence can be heard in the work of countless contemporary blues musicians. His contributions to the genre have cemented his place in the pantheon of great American roots musicians.

## **Funeral Tribute and Farewell**

The funeral of Jerry "Boogie" McCain was held on February 22, 2018, at the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi. The service was attended by a large gathering of family, friends, fellow musicians, and fans who came to pay their respects and bid farewell to the beloved bluesman.

The funeral was a moving and heartfelt tribute to McCain's life and music. Several musicians performed in his honor, including Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, who played a stirring rendition of "Rollin' and Tumblin'." The service also featured a eulogy delivered by blues historian and author David Less,

who spoke of McCain's unwavering passion for music and his enduring legacy as a blues legend.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain was a true pioneer of the blues genre, whose raw and evocative music continues to inspire and move listeners around the world. His untimely death is a great loss, but his legacy will live on through his timeless recordings and the profound impact he had on the blues community.

The funeral of Jerry "Boogie" McCain was a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to sharing the blues with the world. The outpouring of love and respect at his funeral was a testament to the enduring power of his music and the indelible mark he left on the hearts of countless fans. Gone but not forgotten, Jerry "Boogie" McCain's spirit will continue to live on through the generations.



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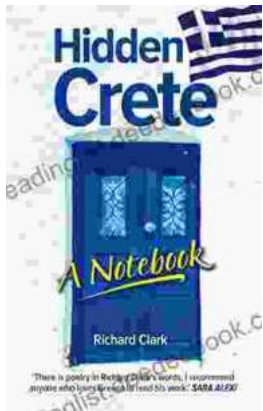
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