

Benjamin F. McCathran

(1855 – 20 Oct 1928)

McCathran, Benjamin F. Saturday, October 20, 1928, Benjamin F., beloved husband of Annie McCathran. Funeral from residence of his daughter, 749 12th street s.e., on Tuesday evening at 2 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

McCathran, Benjamin F. Members of Webster Lodge, No. 7, Knights of Pythias, will meet at 749 12th street s.e. at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 23, 1928, for the purpose of attending the funeral of our deceased brother, Benjamin F. McCathran.

J.F. Lynn, C.C.

The Evening Star, October 22, 1928, p. 3

Blind Machinist, Retired Expires

B.F. McCathran, 73, Showed Skill at Trade After Losing Sight



Benjamin F. McCathran, veteran retired machinist of the Washington Navy Yard, whose keenly developed sense of touch enabled him to grind and file castings for a score of years with impaired eyesight, and for about five years after he was totally blind, with the skill of one with perfect eyesight, was claimed by death Saturday.

First employed at the navy yard 51 years ago, Mr. McCathran soon became a skilled machinist. His sight was impaired during an explosion 33 year ago. After being deprived entirely of his eyesight he continued at his work, rarely mentioning his misfortune to his fellow-employees. And little did the latter realize that his eyesight was even dimmed as they saw skillful fingers guide tools and turn out accurately ground castings to within the small fractions of inch of the dimensions required.

Mr. McCathran was 73 years old, and was placed on the retired list in 1920. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. J.J. Hunt, 749 Twelfth street southeast, after a long illness.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Annie McCathran; two daughters, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. S.L. Sweeney; three sisters, Mrs. Cora Martin, Mrs. Catherine Beek and Mrs. George Guest, and a brother, John McCathran.

Funeral services will be conducted at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Hunt, tomorrow afternoon, at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Marolda, Edward J., The Washington Navy Yard: An Illustrated History, Washington, DC, Naval Historical Center, 1999, p. 60

Exceptionally Meritorious Service

40 years Machinist A.R.

Born Feb. 1, 1855, in the city of Washington. Has been continuously employed since June 20, 1880. Commended for faithful service during period of employment.