TITLE: In Memoriam: John Alex McConen

AUTHOR: Judge William H. Webster

VOLUME: 34 ISSUE: Winter YEAR: 1990
All statements of fact, opinion or analysis expressed in Studies in Intelligence are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect official positions or views of the Central Intelligence Agency or any other US Government entity, past or present. Nothing in the contents should be construed as asserting or implying US Government endorsement of an article's factual statements and interpretations.
In Memoriam

John Alex McConc (Portait by William F. Draper)
JOHN ALEX McCONE

TENURE AS DCI 29 November 1961–28 April 1965
BIRTH 4 January 1902, San Francisco, California
EDUCATION Attended University of California
APPOINTMENT Appointed by President John F. Kennedy, 27 September 1961
Sworn in as recess appointee, 29 November 1961
Confirmed by U.S. Senate, 31 January 1962
RELIEVED Resigned, effective 28 April 1965
DEPUTY DIRECTOR Lieutenant General Marshall A. Carter, U.S. Army
EARLIER CAREER Private business
Member of President’s Air Policy Commission, 1947–1948
Deputy to the Secretary of Defense, March–November 1948
Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1950–1951
LATER CAREER Private business
Counselor to the President’s Commission on Strategic Forces, 1983
Received Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1987
DEATH 14 February 1991, Pebble Beach, California

John A. McCon, who served as Director of Central Intelligence from 1961 to 1965, made an enormous contribution to the security of this nation. He guided the Intelligence Community during a particularly trying time, and it was under his leadership that the Central Intelligence Agency provided vital information to President Kennedy and senior policymakers during the Cuban missile crisis.

Mr. McCon was sharp, tough, and demanding—qualities that made him a highly effective and widely respected leader. As DCI, Mr. McCon strengthened the Intelligence Community’s capabilities and maintained its reputation for unbiased analysis. A strong advocate of technical collection, Mr. McCon created a new Directorate for Science and Technology and coordinated overhead reconnaissance program responsibilities with the Air Force.

Mr. McCon’s long and distinguished career in government was marked by excellence, integrity, and selfless devotion to duty.

Judge William H. Webster