McCoy was born on January 10, 1924, in Casa, Arkansas, the son of Jesse O. and Zetta L. (McCoy) James. He married Betty A. Garner on June 25, 1949, in Moline. She preceded him in death on September 29, 2010.

McCoy was a WWII Army veteran. He had been employed as a production manager and general foreman at J. I. Case, retiring on May 30, 1982, after 23 years. He attended Wildwood Church and was a member of the East Moline American Legion Post 227 and a life member of the VFW, Moline.

McCoy was also a 32nd Degree Mason of the Scottish Rite and Coordinate Bodies Valley of Moline.

Survivors include his children, Scott (Regina) James, Port Byron, Trent Stark James, Maud, OK; daughter-in-law, Mary Cannon James, Davenport, IA; 7 grandchildren; 1 great grandson and 2 great granddaughters; sister, Joan Hartsock, Spencer, NE; sister-in-law, Donna James, Coal Valley.
Psalm 139
For you created my inmost being:
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the
depths of the earth.
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake,
I am still with you.
Verses 13-18

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