



Bobby D. McKenzie

October 17, 1951 - May 21, 2024

Bobby Douglas McKenzie was born to Jamie and Fred McKenzie on October 17, 1951, in Barnesville, Georgia. He departed this life on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Bobby was the oldest of three children and was the only son born to his parents. Bobby's sister Linda affectionately called him 'the golden child.' Bobby was raised in a warm and supportive home where his parents demonstrated love and respect for each other and their children.

Bobby accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of Antioch Baptist Church in Yatesville, Georgia. Later in life, after joining the faculty at Alabama Lutheran College in Selma, Alabama, he became a member of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Wilcox County, under the leadership of Dr. Julius Jenkins. After retiring and moving to Georgia, he attended McDonough Presbyterian, Antioch Baptist, New Covenant, and Shiloh Baptist churches.

After graduating from high school in May of 1969, Bobby attended Alabama State University in Montgomery, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. During his sophomore year of college, he pledged and became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and as he would always say, "Beta Zeta, none greater!" He genuinely believed mantra. Bobby's fraternity brothers gave him the nickname "Big Mac." He had a special love and respect for his fraternity and his brothers. He became a Life Member of the fraternity in the early eighties. Bobby served as Polemarch of the Selma-

Alumni Chapter for nine years. Upon his arrival in McDonough, Georgia, he became a member of the Stockbridge-Jonesboro Alumni Chapter. Although he did not have biological brothers, he regarded several of his college line brothers as his biological brothers. Also, he was close to a number of other Kappas, former Alabama State Marching Hornets from his college days, and a few special friends. He was truly a “Kappa Man” in the best sense of the words.

Bobby had numerous positive experiences during his matriculation at Alabama State University. However, there are three that were very memorable for him. The first high point was successfully challenging other saxophone players in the marching band and concert band to become Saxophone Section Leader and First Chair, respectively, during his sophomore year. The second high point for him was performing with Alabama State Marching Hornets in 1969, at the Super Bowl between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs in New Orleans, Louisiana. Bobby was a first-year student at that time. His third memorable experience, and perhaps the one of which he was most proud of occurred during his senior year. It was the final exit criterion for a senior graduating from the Alabama State University Music Department. A graduating senior was required to perform a solo concert for the public to demonstrate performance proficiency playing his or her respective instrument. He was immensely proud of his performance. Bobby was a great musician- Not only could he play, but he also wrote and arranged music.

Bobby launched his professional career in 1975 by accepting a position in the Music Department at Alabama Lutheran College (later known as Concordia College-Selma). He returned to Alabama State University in 1980, where earned a Master of Science degree in Music Education. From 1982 to 1984, he completed post-graduate work in the Music Department at the University of Memphis in Tennessee. After completing graduate and postgraduate work, he

later became Chairperson of the Music Department at Concordia College-Selma. Bobby's tenure with Concordia College-Selma was both rewarding and challenging. He was challenged with the task of creating both instrumental and vocal groups that would showcase some of the best of Concordia. He and his groups traveled across the State of Alabama and across the country delivering religious music to churches and other venues for more than thirty years. Music was his gift and his passion. He had a fatherly love for the students in his music groups, as evidenced by his students' outpouring of love via phone calls, texts, Facebook posts, e-mails, and visits prior to and after his retirement. Some of his happiest moments were when he told stories about experiences with his groups, the Concordia Ensemble and Concordia Jazz Band. He was enormously proud of their accomplishments.

Bobby has two sons, Bobby (Doug) and Brandon from his first marriage. One great highlight during the past few years was a trip to Denver, Colorado afforded to him by his younger son, Brandon, to see the Denver Nuggets play. He enjoyed talking to his friends about his trip. During the fall of 1985, Bobby met Fannie Sanders Major. They had a long and wonderful courtship. During their time together, they shared hundreds of lasting memories. They had a special bond that was based on love and respect. Bobby could always depend on Fannie to come through for him whenever he needed her. She never failed him. And likewise, she could always depend on him. In January of 2002, Bobby and Fannie, having been partners since 1985, were married. At the time of his departure, they had been married for 22 years.

Bobby ("Big Mac") was preceded in death by his parents, Jamie and Fred McKenzie; two sisters, Jacqueline McKenzie and Linda McKenzie; and one stepdaughter, Faya Ife' Major Paul. Although departed, Bobby ("Big Mac") lives in the heart and memory of his loved ones. His legacy of love includes his devoted wife, Fannie Sanders McKenzie, McDonough, GA; two sons,

Doug McKenzie (Michele), Montgomery, Alabama; Brandon McKenzie, Columbus, GA; one stepson, Mosi Omar Major, Mableton, GA; one son-in-law, Andrew Paul, McDonough, GA; two grandsons, Brandon (BJ) McKenzie, Columbus, Georgia; Bobby McKenzie, Montgomery, Alabama; five granddaughters, Navilla Paul, Stockbridge, Georgia; Mekala McKenzie, Morgan McKenzie and Madison McKenzie, all of Montgomery, Alabama; Fanikia Neema Paul, McDonough, Georgia; three sisters-in-law, Lelia Gordon, Watertown, Massachusetts; Elouise Robinson (James), Bay Minette, Alabama; Dixie Bonner (Walter), Talladega, Alabama; five brothers-in-law, Hank Sanders (Rose), Selma, Alabama; John Sanders, Rochester, New York; Charles Sanders, West Blocton, Alabama; Douglas Sanders (Karen), Fayetteville, Georgia; Willie Edward Sanders (Brenda), Rice, Virginia; special first cousins, Bebjamin "Bruce Jackson and Mary Kate Jackson, Barnesville, Georgia; James (Gladys) Prater, Yatesville, Georgia; Alphonso (Christine) Prater, Decatur, Georgia; Annie Ciel Prater, Atlanta, Georgia; Lessie Harris, Yatesville, Georgia; Ricky (Beverly), Stone Mountain, Georgia; devoted friends Arvell (Vrita) Delaine, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Grady (Faye) Thompson, Albany, Georgia; Willie Brunson, Memphis, Tennessee; Danny (Judy) Five Points, Alabama; Robert (Angernette) Carter, Selma, Alabama; Bruce (Dorothy) Barnes, Selma, Alabama; Melvin Flannegan, Selma, Alabama; Charles (Andrea) Johnson, Augusta, Georgia; Reginald (Renee) Wells, Selma, Alabama; Delbert Melton (Spider), Barnesville, Georgia; the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; a village of over 70 special nieces and nephews, a host of cousins, other extended relatives, former students and friends.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church - McDonough

262 Macon St.

McDonough, GA 30253

(770) 957-2344

<http://www.shilohmcdonough.org/>

Tribute Wall

WH

“My name is Willie Hatcher, and I had the honor of knowing Mr. Bobby D. McKenzie as my teacher, mentor, and friend. I first met Mr. McKenzie in 1979 at Trinity Lutheran School in Selma, during my 8th-grade year. He and his group came to play at Trinity, and from that moment, I knew I wanted to be part of that music. Somehow, Mr. McKenzie decided I should try the trombone, and he began helping me practice after school. When I graduated from Trinity and started at Alabama Lutheran Academy the next year, he pulled me aside and told me, “Willie, you don’t really know how to play trombone.” That was Mr. McKenzie—always honest, direct, and caring. Even so, he let me sit in on some of his group practices. That’s when I discovered my true love—the percussion section, especially the drums. He paired me with Stanley Peoples, and together, they taught me how to read music and truly understand rhythm. That experience changed my life. Mr. McKenzie gave me confidence, discipline, and a belief that I could move forward no matter what stood in my way. He had a saying that stuck with me through the years: Always move forward—never backward. It wasn’t just about music—it was about life. By my last year with the Concordia Ensemble, I became Band President, and I had the opportunity to play with different groups across Selma, Georgia, and my home state of Pennsylvania. Every time I picked up an instrument, I carried Mr. McKenzie’s lessons with me.

Today, I work for a major plastic bottle company and hold several U.S. patents and awards in PET plastic design. But beyond any accomplishment, what I truly value is the character and confidence Mr. McKenzie helped build in me. His guidance also shaped the way I raised my two sons—I taught them, just as he taught me, to always move forward and never backward. Mr. McKenzie, you were more than a teacher. You were a mentor, a role model, and a lifelong friend. You pushed me to be a better man, and I will forever be grateful. Rest easy, my friend. Your lessons live on in all of us you touched.

Willie Hatcher - October 09, 2025 at 01:51 AM

RH

“ *My Ace Phi Nu Pi. There were none better than Big Mac. When I came to Concordia College in the Fall of '83, it was like we had known each other our whole lives. He was truly a Brother and a brother to me. On to the Chapter Invisible*

-Randy Harris, BZ Spr '79.

Randy Harris - August 12, 2024 at 09:36 PM

KI

“ *Mckenzie family, we are praying with you and for you during this difficult time, as you adjust to life without your love one. In His service, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, Beta Zeta Chapter*

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated - June 04, 2024 at 03:19 PM

KI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated - June 03, 2024 at 09:24 PM

LP

“ Leo Jackson & Lebaron Pettawy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.



Leo Jackson & Lebaron Pettawy - June 01, 2024 at 10:54 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Program



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - May 31, 2024 at 11:16 AM

LW

“ Lee Williams lit a candle in memory of Bobby D. McKenzie



Lee Williams - May 31, 2024 at 11:00 AM

SR

“ Bobby and I attended Booker Elem. and High School in Barnesville, GA. We graduated in 1969 and he was our class Valedictorian! Rest well classmate!

Sherryl Dumas Robinson - May 31, 2024 at 10:50 AM

CF

“ Allow the rainbow of memories to bring a touch of light to your sorrow.
Condolences from a family friend.
Charlotte Fallings

Charlotte Fallings - May 31, 2024 at 09:17 AM

SD

“ Bobby was a 1969 graduate of Booker High School of Barnesville, Georgia. I was a 1970 graduate along with Bobby's sister Linda. Bobby was a solid brother and will be missed. My condolences to the family. May he rest in peace.

Stanley Dumas - May 30, 2024 at 09:25 PM

KI

Mckenzie family, we are praying with you and for you during this difficult time, as you adjust to life without your love one.
In His service,
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, Beta Zeta Chapter

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated - June 03, 2024 at 03:45 PM

SP

“ *Mr. Bobby D. McKenzie was my band director and teacher at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College (ALAC) from 1974 to 1980. He was a no-nonsense type of individual; firm but fair. Before he arrived, ALAC did not have a band. I met him when I was in the 9th grade. Most of the people in the band (myself included) had never played an instrument before. I'm really thankful for his patience and leadership. Over the years we developed into an outstanding band. He definitely had a major impact on my life and on many others. Go head Mr. McKenzie and take your rest. Job well done.*



Stanley Peeples - May 30, 2024 at 07:18 PM

S(

“ *Stanley Peeples and Family (ALAC) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.*



Stanley Peeples and Family (ALAC) - May 30, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.*



May 30, 2024 at 11:30 AM

MT

“ *Mr. McKenzie is unforgettable. He will always be missed. I first knew him as a high school student and later as a co-worker. He gave me some of the best career advice which I later practiced and shared with others. Thank you for that advice and the many past invitations to your social events and especially your warm smile.*



Marsha Taylor - May 30, 2024 at 08:40 AM

RS

“ *I am Rev. Benjamin F. Stallworth, Sr. Pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, AL. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to me Mr. Mckenzie as a Student at Alabama Lutheran Academy and College (Concordia College) in Selma, AL as a student. He was a respectable and down to earth person. He always spoke when he saw you. I was a student from 1978 -1980. Thank God for his musical talents. Rev. B. F. Stallworth, Sr. John 14:1-6.*



Rev. Benjamin F. Stallworth, Sr - May 30, 2024 at 05:23 AM

RH

“ *Ricky Hawkins purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.*



Ricky Hawkins - May 29, 2024 at 11:12 PM

SF

“ Scott, Young & Harvey Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.



Scott, Young & Harvey Family - May 29, 2024 at 09:01 PM

RF

“ Ralph M. Chapman & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.



Ralph M. Chapman & Family - May 29, 2024 at 05:55 PM

RF

“ Ralph M. Chapman & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bobby D. McKenzie.

Ralph M. Chapman & Family - May 29, 2024 at 05:55 PM

DC

“ Dr. & Mrs. James Carter purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.



Dr. & Mrs. James Carter - May 29, 2024 at 02:06 PM

DC

“ Dr. & Mrs. James Carter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bobby D. McKenzie.

Dr. & Mrs. James Carter - May 29, 2024 at 02:06 PM

BD

“ My Condolences 🙏
Bernard Dubose

MMH'S "69"



Bernard Dubose - May 29, 2024 at 01:07 AM

TF

“ The Weaver Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bobby D. McKenzie.



The Weaver Family - May 27, 2024 at 01:21 PM

JM

“ I would like to send my condolences to the family of Mr. McKenzie, sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you. Mr. McKenzie is the reason that I played in the band and graduated from Alabama Lutheran Academy and Alabama Lutheran Junior College. A Great Teacher to a lot of his students.

James "Smack" McNeil - May 22, 2024 at 06:01 PM

SP

I Synethia Perkins Pettaway, a graduate of Concordia College and former student of MR. BOBBY D. McKENZIE. I extend my heartfelt condolences, thoughts, and prayers to Dr. Fannie McKenzie and family during this difficult period of transition. Mr. Mckenzie was a par-excellence in music. Mr. McKenzie recruited me to attend Concordia College, where i was awarded a music scholarship byway of the Concordia Emsemble, with Mr. McKenzie as director. He was also a creative music arts instructor. He impacted my life at Concordia until I graduated. After graduation, I did not forget about Concordia Emsemble. I worked with Mr. McKenzie to expose the Concordia Emsemble in different venues in the city of Selma. He was very talented and shared his gift with his students. That is something I'll never forget. Take your rest Mr. McKenzie, well done God's good and faithful servant!!!

Prayerfully,

*Form Student Synethia Perkins Pettaway and Family,
Selma, Alabama*

Synethia E Pettaway - May 29, 2024 at 03:01 AM