



## William Knight McNeal

December 29, 1929 - September 21, 2024

William (Bill) Knight McNeal, 94, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on September 21, 2024 after a long and fulfilling life. Bill was born on December 29, 1929, in Nimrod, Arkansas. After graduation from Plainview High School, Bill attended Arkansas Tech and graduated with a B.S. in agronomy from Oklahoma State University. Bill served four years in the US Naval Air Squadron during the Korean Conflict. After an honorable discharge from the US Navy, Bill began his career with the United States Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration working in various Arkansas counties. He also served as Chief of Multi-Family Housing in the State Office, and eventually worked as an independent consultant on housing. Bill also owned a beef cattle operation in Perry County, partnering with his son, Paul. Bill married the love of his life, Martha Lou Parham from Lake Village, Arkansas in 1955. During their 65 years of marriage, they had three children: Paul, Gail, and Jan. They raised their family in McGehee, Arkansas until their move to Morrilton, Arkansas in 1970. Bill was engaged in his communities: leading Sunday School, working with church youth, and serving as a deacon at both McGehee First Baptist Church and Morrilton First Baptist Church (serving as Secretary and Chairman); member of the Morrilton Rotary Club including a tenure as President; and, an active supporter of the schools and athletics at Morrilton. Upon retirement, Bill and Martha made their final home in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he participated in his Sunday School class until

his death.

Bill was preceded in death by his dear wife, Martha Lou Parham McNeal; parents, Roy William and Mary Joyce Cowger McNeal; four brothers: James Thomas McNeal, Don Carlos McNeal, Robert Lee McNeal, George Cowger McNeal; sister, Mary Ellen McNeal; and beloved son-in-law, Jack Woodrow Jones.

Bill, fondly known as “Pappaw”, is survived by his children: William Paul McNeal (Violet), Gail Parham McNeal Jones, and Jan Ellen McNeal Minchew (David); grandchildren: Katherine Elizabeth Minchew Laverde (Brent), Tyler Knight Minchew (Hillary), Michael David Minchew, Elizabeth Knight Jones Bainter (Kyle), and William McNeal Jones; and, great-grandchildren: Maia Elizabeth Laverde and Leigh Katherine Laverde.

Bill left a legacy of Christian faithfulness, living his love of God, family, and virtue and bestowing those virtues to his family. Bill’s obituary would not be complete without including a note on his tomato-growing skills, of which he shared the bounty with all he encountered.

Graveside services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at Nimrod Cemetery with Rev. Gary Glasgow officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the cemetery. Memorials can be made to Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock or the Nimrod Cemetery Fund.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **24.** 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Nimrod Cemetery  
39 Nimrod Cemetery Loop  
Perryville, AR 72126

## Graveside Service

SEP **24.** 10:30 AM (CT)

Nimrod Cemetery  
39 Nimrod Cemetery Loop  
Perryville, AR 72126

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ Gail, Paul and Jan - I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. My thoughts are with all of you.

Michael Parette - October 22, 2024 at 12:34 PM

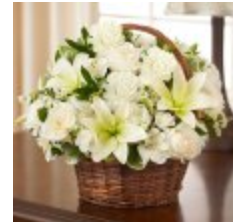
TB

“ Mr. Bill was an amazing man, and I consider myself extremely lucky to have known him. He raised a garden every year behind the barn on the farm at Cherry Hill and he definitely had a green thumb. He always gave me a hug anytime I was around him and made sure to give me the best tomatoes and peppers I ever had. He will be missed dearly and was loved by so many. Prayers for peace for the family.

Theresa Brown - September 23, 2024 at 05:03 PM

CC

“ Chris, Amanda, Alex and Lauren Cottrill purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of William Knight McNeal.



Chris, Amanda, Alex and Lauren Cottrill - September 23, 2024 at 01:30 PM

JW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family as you cherish memories and celebrate his life so well-lived.



Janet Williams - September 22, 2024 at 09:10 PM

CF

“ *Connie McNeal family purchased the Springtime Wishes for the family of William Knight McNeal.*



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**Connie McNeal family** - September 22, 2024 at 06:22 PM

CM

“ *Bill was the one McNeal who would hug all he met. Really a fine man. Now all the boys are gone.*

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**Connie McNeal** - September 22, 2024 at 06:15 PM

SG

“ *Jan, Gail and Paul, I was so sorry to read of your great loss. We loved your parents and I always enjoyed running into them around town here in LR. We will be lifting you up in prayer for comfort and peace. He and your Momma are in Heaven celebrating with so many of our parents who've gone now. I long for the day to be reunited with them all. Love, Sara Brown Goodall*

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**Sara Goodall** - September 22, 2024 at 06:12 PM

BR

*Bill and I were across the street neighbors for 25 plus years. He never ceased to amaze me with his farm stories. Always brought tomatoes in season. I would do anything the man ask of me. We lost a true gentleman and friend,,,RIP my Friend*

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**bobby rodgers** - September 25, 2024 at 09:58 AM