



James Oscar McKinley

MAR 1, 1923 - DEC 17, 2016



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PERRY- James Oscar McKinley passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 17, 2016, surrounded by his loving and devoted family. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, at First Baptist Church of Perry at 2:00 p.m. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery immediately following the service. The family will visit with friends on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home. Flowers will be gratefully accepted or memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church of Perry, 1105 Main Street, Perry, GA 31069. Mr. McKinley was the son of the late Benjamin F. and Elizabeth White McKinley. He was born in Byron, Georgia on March 1, 1923. A lifelong resident of Houston County, he graduated from Perry High School in 1943. Just one month after graduation, he joined the U.S. Army and proudly served our country as a Corporal in the 325th Infantry Regiment in the second wave of the D-Day Invasion on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, during World War II and in the Battle of the Bulge. For his service, Mr. McKinley was given a Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor Medal. When he returned home, he worked at Penn-Dixie Cement Company until he was hired with Civil Service at Robins Air Force Base. Late in his career, Mr. McKinley decided to try his hand at local politics, and was elected to Perry City Council. After serving for several years, he was elected Mayor of Perry, and soon retired from RAFB as a computer programmer after nearly 30 years of employment. Mayor McKinley was honored to serve his family, friends, and community from 1974 to 1980. As Mayor, he played a significant role in the redevelopment of downtown Perry, as well as, Christmas at the Crossroads. He also designed the city of Perry flag and the stationary that is still used today. James loved Perry and enjoyed telling stories of playing on Carroll Street as a child and the vast improvements that Perry has undergone since then. Mr. McKinley was a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Perry and the Barnabus Sunday School Class, a



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former member of Perry Kiwanis Club where he was recognized at Kiwanis Man of the Year in the 1980's, a member of Perry VFW, American Legion, Houston Lodge F&AM 35, 35th Infantry Division Association, McKinley Historical Society of Pike County, and Al Sihah Shrine Temple in Macon. James was a true friend to many. He was always looking to serve others and help when needed, and often tried to anticipate what people needed and provided without question. A loving and devoted family man, he adored his family, always providing for them and loving them unconditionally. James was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Margaret "Meg" McKinley; and his siblings, Ruth Walton, William McKinley, Louise Crockett, and Martha VanAsdalan. Left to cherish the memories of James are his loving and devoted wife of 60 years, Mable Rigdon McKinley; his daughters, Julie McKinley Foy (Dan) and Angie McKinley, both of Perry; his grandchildren, Tyler McKinley Foy, Maura Foy (Brian Stokes), and Mallory Foy, and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Mr. McKinley's caregivers, Wanda McNeil and Edna Ned.



Tribute Wall

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BE

Bradley Egyed posted:

A great man. I only knew him for a short couple of years, but loved speaking with him. His stories were amazing. He was a hero, yet so humble. I thought about him often through the past few years. Condolences to the family. He will be missed.

January 11 at 8:00 PM

AB

Allen Ballard posted:

Till we meet again, rest my friend!!

December 28 at 8:00 PM

SL

Shelia (Todd) Laws posted:

I am sorry for your loss. Praying that God will wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace and comfort.

December 26 at 8:00 PM

BN

Beth Richardson, Mark Richardson, & Susan Nichols posted:

Continuing to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. James was a special person, just as your entire family is special to us. So many wonderful memories made over the years!

December 26 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To All of the McKinley Family We are praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time. Keep your memories close at heart and he will always be with you. Ruby, Connie, Debbie & Cissy

December 20 at 8:00 PM

WE

Willietommy Epps posted:

What a guy. he sure helped me when I had a young family but I never knew of his war heroism. We sent Mr. Mac and Mable a Christmas card for years. And never stopped thinking of them. what a family. Wishing them the best.

December 20 at 8:00 PM



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Debra Chapman-Griffin posted:

May God bless you and your family during this time. Cherish the memories.

December 19 at 8:00 PM



Bruce And Deanna Avery posted:

Thinking of the McKinley/Foy family at this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

December 19 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Thinking and praying for all of you. I wish I could be there. I'm sending my love. -Ansley

December 19 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To all of the McKinley Family, I love you all so much. I will keep each and every one of you in my prayers. He was a dear man. Love Nancy (Manuce)

December 19 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Julie, Your Dad was certainly a special man. He was so kind and thoughtful and a pleasure to be around. My prayers are with you and your family.

December 19 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My condolences to the family of Mr. McKinley. I knew & greatly respected Mr. McKinley when I worked in Programming. He was such a kind man. I pray the family will be consoled by the following verses. Romans 8:28. Phil. 1: 3-6. Joshua 1:9. Love, Ballard Rutherford, 3507 Union Church Rd., Ft. Valley, Ga. 31030. 478-825-2525.

December 19 at 8:00 PM



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TH

The Staff Of Watson-Hunt Funeral Home posted:

Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

December 19 at 8:00 PM

LL

Leelee Murphy Lewis posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

December 18 at 8:00 PM

BL

Bernadette Luce posted:

Angie,I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's death.I hope you and your family find comfort from those that love and pray for you.

December 18 at 8:00 PM

PT

Peggy Thornton posted:

Praying for your family at your time of loss that you may find comfort in your memories of this wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

December 18 at 8:00 PM

AE

Alan Everidge posted:

I was so sorry to hear of your family's loss. He was a great man who will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. Lifting your family up in prayers during this time of loss.

December 18 at 8:00 PM

TR

Tina Ransom posted:

Ms Mabel, Julie, Angie and family my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. May God comfort and bless you. Mr James was a good man who left us all with fond memories. Hold tight to all of your memories of him and knowing he is in the arms of our Lord and Savior with no pain or sickness. Love you all

December 18 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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