

God saw he was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be;
So He put His arms around him,
And whispered, "Come with me."
With tearful eyes
We watched him suffer,
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands put to rest;
God took him Home
To prove to us,
He only takes the Best!

Flower Bearers

Geneva Gentry	Lula Patterson
Kim Jolly	Vanessa Gentry
Georgia Ann Hopper	Shanae Foye
Annette Gentry	Tisha Wright

Pall Bearers

Bernard Weaver	Todd Parrish
Jamar Wray	James Patterson
Rafael Littlejohn	Keith Jolly

Acknowledgement

The family of Mr. James Ernest McKinzie wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the many comforting acts of kindness and sympathy shown during the passing of our loved one.

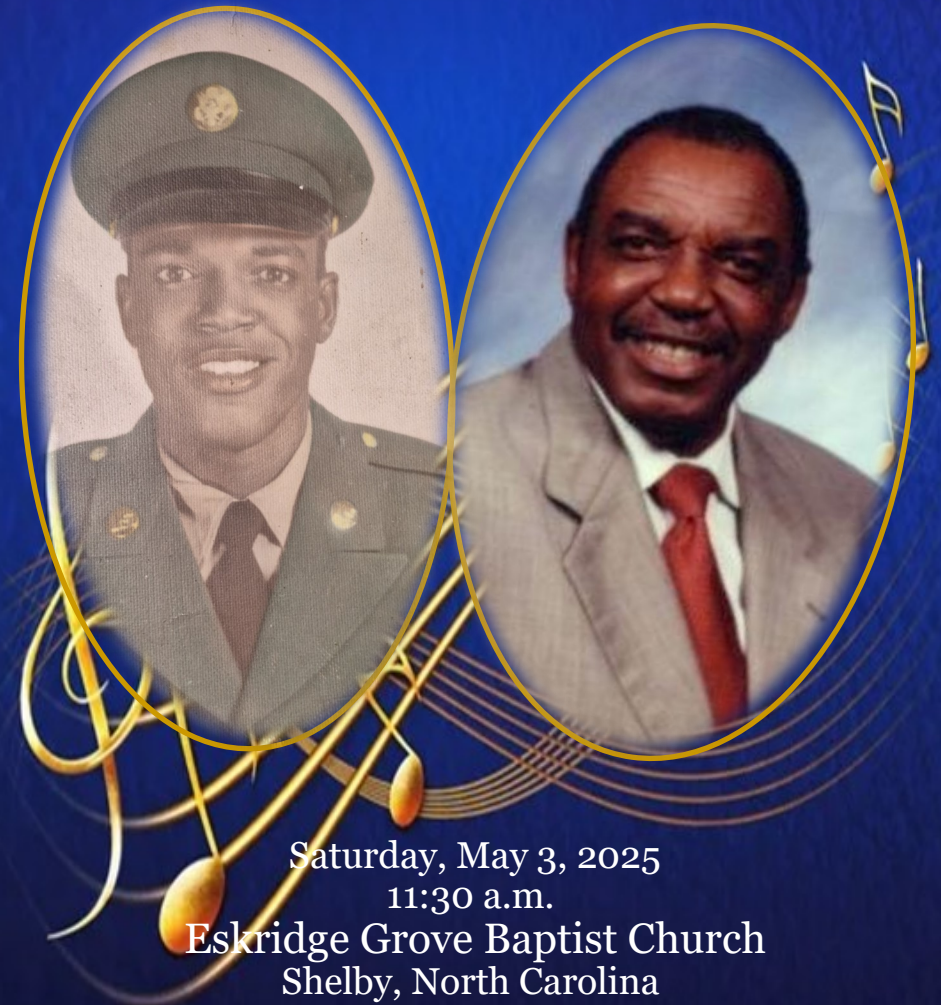


"Sympathetic and Efficient Service Since 1922"
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Homegoing Service for Mr. James Ernest "Leonard" McKinzie

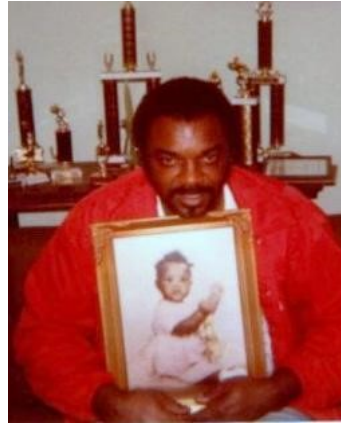
December 22, 1935 - April 22, 2025



Saturday, May 3, 2025
11:30 a.m.

Eskridge Grove Baptist Church
Shelby, North Carolina

Rev. C.D. Montgomery, Officiating





ORDER OF SERVICE



Prelude
 Processional
 Officiating Minister.....Rev. C.D. Montgomery
 Receiving of Friends.....11:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
 Congregational Hymn..... “How Great Thou Art”

Scripture Reading
 Old Testament.....Rev. Strickland Maddox
 New Testament.....Min. Kitty Lee

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Strickland Maddox
 SelectionEskridge Grove Male Choir

Remarks (2 Minutes).....Deacon Craig Gentry
 Mr. James “Preacher” Lee
 Mr. Jamar Wray
 Mr. Robert Watson
 Mr. Robert Smith

Acknowledgements
 Reading of Obituary.....Silently
 SelectionEskridge Grove Male Choir
 Words of Comfort.....Rev. C. D. Montgomery
 Recessional Selection”I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

—Interment—

Eskridge Grove Baptist Church Cemetery
 Shelby North Carolina



Mr. James Ernest "Leonard" McKinzie, age 89, of Kingstown, NC, peacefully departed this life on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at his residence. A native of Cleveland County, Leonard was born on December 22, 1935, to the late Ernest Bernice McKenzie and Argatha Violet Thompson McKenzie.

Leonard attended Green Bethel High School before continuing his education at Payne College. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for two years. After his military service, Leonard worked at Dover Mill and later Fiber/Celanese, where he dedicated 35 years before retiring. Known for his wit and humor, Leonard always had a unique nickname for everyone he met, and he loved to unwind by watching classic Westerns.

Outside of his work life, Leonard was a passionate athlete and performer. He competed in the Senior Olympics, where he enjoyed running track. He was also a gifted singer. In fact, Leonard founded the Carolina All-Male Chorus, an a cappella group that brought joy to many. For years, he was an active member of Eskridge Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir and shared his love for music with the congregation. Leonard also enjoyed bowling with the Senior League, where he was well known for his competitive spirit and camaraderie with fellow bowlers.

Leonard's family meant the world to him. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Vera Jane Lee McKinzie; his son, Mark McKinzie; his stepmother, Annie McKenzie; and his sister, Jeanette Gentry (George).

He leaves behind many cherished memories, which will be fondly remembered by his two devoted daughters, Linda McKinzie of the home, and Sonya McKinzie of Durham, NC; siblings, Robert Watson (Geraldine) and Dorothy Davis (late Arthur). He is also survived by six grandchildren, Kenbria McKinzie of Kingstown, NC; Leiah Famble (Teron) of Greensboro, NC; LaSonya Hudson (Hugh) of Graham, NC; Nicholas McKinzie of Kingstown, NC; Loria Pereyra McKinzie (Miguel) of Charlotte, NC; and Michael Copeland of Shelby, NC. His eleven great-grandchildren, affectionately called his "Boneheads," include Kavion Hopper, Kamden Howell, Malachi Williams, Ka'Marion McKinzie, Triston Famble, Jordan Hudson, Tyler Hudson, Kendrell Pereyra, Naomi Hudson, Levi Hudson, and August McKinzie; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Leonard's loving spirit and sense of humor will be deeply missed, but his legacy of family, faith, and music will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

