



## Aldren McKenzie

August 12, 1954 - November 15, 2024

Mr. Aldren McKenzie, a cherished member of the community, embarked on his life's journey in Talladega County, Alabama, on August 11, 1954, to the loving embrace of his parents, Mr. Tollie Sims and Ms. Eula McKenzie.

Mr. McKenzie accepted Christ at a young age and united with Lilly Hill Missionary Baptist Church, but later in life he began attending Belview Baptist Church. His academic pursuits led him through the Talladega City School System, where he was a graduate of Talladega High School with the Class of 1972. Throughout his professional career, Aldren dedicated himself to the textile industry, starting as a weaver before transitioning to the role of a forklift operator while residing in Georgia. His strong work ethic and commitment to his craft inspired those around him and left a lasting impression in the hearts of many.

Known affectionately as "Gay-Gay," Mr. McKenzie was a vibrant soul who exuded warmth and joy in all his interactions. His passion for playing cards, family gatherings, and sports, particularly basketball, brightened the lives of those around him. His infectious spirit and love for sports teams left enduring memories that will be treasured by all who knew him. With a passion for manual labor and a green thumb that could cultivate magnificent gardens, Aldren found comfort in working with his hands and tending to the earth.

Fishing was not merely a hobby for him; it was a profound love that led him to the tranquil riverbanks, where he cast his rod and reel with joy in his heart. Even as his health declined, Aldren continued to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, finding great joy in friendly card games.

On the evening of Friday, November 15, 2024 Mr. Aldren "Gay-Gay" McKenzie peacefully answered the call of his maker while in the care of Talladega Healthcare Center, surrounded by his dear family. As he transitioned from this world to the next, Mr. McKenzie was embraced by the loving arms of his parents, Mr. Tollie Sims and Ms. Eula Mae McKenzie and his three brothers, Sam "Mighty Tight" McKenzie, Christopher McKenzie, and Jerry "Miles" McKenzie.

Mr. McKenzie leaves behind a legacy of love and joy that will forever resonate in the hearts of his surviving loved ones, including his two children, Chaz (Queta) McKenzie Vessie and Jasmine Bryson; two brothers, Charles McKenzie and Ray Murray; five sisters, Barbara (William) Scott, Gwendolyn "Bootsie" (Larry Jennings) McKenzie, Deborah "Tutta" McKenzie, Sedra "Momma Vet (as Gay-Gay would say)" McKenzie, LaDean "Dean" (Earl Kelley) Zinnerman; one sister-in-law, Millicent "Ball" McKenzie; five grandchildren; special friend, Frankie Hearn; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. The memory of his vibrant spirit and strong love will be memorialized in the hearts of all who had the privilege to know him.

In honoring his memory, we reflect on his life with reverence, compassion, and gratitude for the cherished moments he shared with us. May he rest in eternal peace, his spirit forever imprinted on our hearts.

# Cemetery Details

**Kelly Springs Memorial Gardens**

## Previous Events

### Public Viewing

NOV **22**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel  
217 Coosa St. East  
Talladega, AL 35160

### Celebration of Life

NOV **23**. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel  
217 Coosa St. East  
Talladega, AL 35160

# Tribute Wall

YW

“ *Yulanda Wilson lit a candle in memory of Aldren McKenzie*



Yulanda Wilson - November 23, 2024 at 11:52 AM

MV

“ *Just wanted to offer my condolences. There are no words to express that can make you feel better but to be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord*

Mary Vessie - November 23, 2024 at 08:30 AM

ES

“ *Words seems so trivial compared to the loss of Gay Gay. He was like a little brother to me and my younger brothers. They were childhood friends, and that bond remained throughout their adulthood. Gay touched so many hearts and left so many fun, and happy memories that embed in way that we will never forget. We share your sorrow during this difficult time as we get comfort in JESUS DeVine Love and Care. May our Heavenly father give us strength, courage, and peace as we reflect and cherish Gay's precious and lasting memories.*



*Eula Hearn Stephens and Family*

Eula Hearn Stephens - November 22, 2024 at 09:52 PM

TD

“ Tina Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Aldren McKenzie



Tina Dickerson - November 21, 2024 at 01:38 AM

DD

“ Deborah Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Aldren McKenzie



Deborah Dickerson - November 21, 2024 at 12:34 AM

AU

“ AlaTrust Credit Union purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Aldren McKenzie.



AlaTrust Credit Union - November 20, 2024 at 02:43 PM

AC

“ Annette S Chatman sent a virtual gift in memory of Aldren McKenzie



Annette S Chatman - November 20, 2024 at 11:05 AM

EH

“ *Elder Jerrell And Sonya Hicks lit a candle in memory of Aldren McKenzie*



**Elder Jerrell and Sonya Hicks** - November 19, 2024 at 04:22 PM

HM

“ *Earth hath no sorrows that Heaven can't heal.  
Rest in peace as your family look to the hills.  
God has help there.*



*Helen Millender*

**Helen Millender** - November 19, 2024 at 01:20 PM

MZ

“ *Very sorry to hear this sending  
love/condolences with deepest sympathy to the  
entire family, may God's love keep you  
comforted.*



**Minister Zeola** - November 18, 2024 at 11:06 PM

JH

“ *Jackie Williams Hall lit a candle in memory of  
Aldren McKenzie*



**jackie Williams Hall** - November 18, 2024 at 09:32 PM

JH

*My sincere prayers and Condolences for the family!!! 🙏💔😊🌹*

jackie Williams Hall - November 18, 2024 at 09:33 PM

KB

“ *Gay was my brother in law and he was a great person. He was a hardworking man and enjoyed fishing and he loved his family. I'm sorry to the family and friends*



Kathleen Bryson - November 18, 2024 at 01:35 PM

DD

*My condolences and deepest sympathy to the family 🙏*

Deborah Dye - November 25, 2024 at 02:12 PM

JJ

“ *My sister and gay*



Judy johnson - November 18, 2024 at 01:26 PM

JJ

“ *I can't believe it. Gay was my brother n law forever it seem. After my sister passed away also of cancer and gay retired all he wanted to do was go home to talladega and fish. Bless his heart i hope he got to enjoy a little of his retirement.*



Judy johnson - November 18, 2024 at 01:24 PM

TS

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the McKenzie/Scott families. Doing this time may the Lord give the families solace. Ms. Theresa Stockdale and family*



Theresa Stockdale - November 17, 2024 at 07:14 PM

BH

“ *Barbara Harmon lit a candle in memory of Aldren McKenzie*



Barbara Harmon - November 17, 2024 at 04:38 PM

AB

“ *He was the most loving and caring father to me made sure we had it all and he will never be forgotten*



ashley bryson - November 17, 2024 at 06:35 AM