



## Mattie Pope

January 27, 1963 - April 25, 2025

On January 27, 1963, in Talladega, Alabama, L.C. McKenzie and Mae Wilma Garrett McKenzie welcomed a radiant gift into the world, a daughter they named Mattie Ruth McKenzie. With a spirit full of joy and an unwavering commitment to her faith, Mattie dedicated her life to Christ from an early age, uniting with Lily Hill Missionary Baptist Church before later becoming a cherished member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the loving leadership of Pastor Clarence Henderson. There, she served diligently, exemplifying the grace and love that defined her essence.

Mattie received her formal education in the Talladega City School System, graduating from Talladega High School. She began her professional journey in the poultry industry, serving as a devoted employee with Tyson Foods for over eleven years. Yet, it was her heartfelt commitment to family and love that would forever mark her life.

Her life transformed when she met her soulmate, Bertis Pope. After a courtship that spanned five years, the two were united in Holy Matrimony on May 19, 1993, embarking on a blissful journey marked by love, travel, and cherished memories. Together, they enjoyed a sacred union that lasted over 31 years, blessed with four loving children. Mattie poured her heart into her family, adoring her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were the absolute light of her life. Family meant the world to Mattie, and she loved her

family unconditionally, especially her sister, Barbara who she spoke with daily. Her unconditional love for her family knew no bounds. She was a devoted mother to her two sons whom she loved selflessly.

Mattie faced incredible challenges in her life, especially following a tragic 18-wheeler vehicle accident on September 10, 1998, which left her and her husband, Bertis Pope, paralyzed. Through the trials of her condition, she exhibited unwavering strength and grace, embodying the spirit of resilience and hope. After spending over five months in the hospital and later being transferred to Lakeshore Rehabilitation Hospital, her husband Bertis regained his mobility. However, Mattie remained immobile, and Bertis dedicated himself wholeheartedly to caring for her with the assistance and outpouring love and support of their guardian angel, Ms. Mary Ragland, who took them under her wings giving them shelter and constant motherly love. Once Bertis became completely independent, he and his wife relocated and his devotion over the past 27 years serves as a testament to their extraordinary love, faith, and the unbreakable bond formed under God's guiding hand.

Mattie will be fondly remembered for her compassionate spirit, nurturing nature, and infectious laughter. Known affectionately as the "Fashion Queen" by family and friends, she radiated beauty in all forms. Her flair for style was so extraordinary that her husband lovingly constructed a dream designer closet to house her vibrant collection of dresses, shoes, and hats. Mattie's attention to detail didn't stop at her wardrobe; her hair and makeup were always meticulously arranged, her confidence shining brightly in every occasion. If you looked in the dictionary under the word FASHIONISTA QUEEN, YOU WOULD FIND "MATTIE RUTH MCKENZIE POPE". Amid her bustling life, she delighted in the music of Earth, Wind & Fire, which resonated with her joyous spirit.

On the evening of April 25, 2025, after 62 blessed years filled with love, laughter, and compassion, God called for His beautiful angel, Mattie Ruth McKenzie Pope, to take her heavenly wings and journey to glory, surrounded by her beloved family at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. In that moment, she was welcomed home by the arms of her parents, L.C. and Mae Wilma McKenzie, her son, Mario McKenzie, brother, William L. McKenzie, sisters, Joyce McKenzie and Elizabeth "Cat" McKenzie, and father-in-law, Rufus Pope.

Mattie leaves behind a profound legacy, enriched by the love and cherished memories she created with those fortunate enough to have known her. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of over 31 years,, Bertis Pope; sons, William (Jennie) McKenzie and Curtis McKenzie; bonus son, Chris Woodgett; bonus daughter, Lisa Whiteside; brothers, Henry Lee McKenzie and Johnny McKenzie; sisters, Margie (Robert) Briskey and Barbara Curry; mother-in-law, Joyce Pope; brothers-in-law, Marshall (Lori) Pope, Roman Pope, and Ronald Scott; sisters-in-law, Brenda Sullivan, Gail Scott, Gloria Beck, and Annie Mae McClellan; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and an extensive network of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends who will miss her dearly.

As we prepare to bid farewell to Mattie, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for the time we shared, embracing her vibrant spirit that will forever remain in our souls. Together, we celebrate a life well-lived, one filled with unwavering love and joyful memories that will continue to inspire us all.

# Cemetery Details

## Midway Memory Gardens

27950 SR - 21 N  
Talladega, AL 35160

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAY 2. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

MAY 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Shady Grove Baptist Church  
801 Jennifer Road  
Munford, AL 36268

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ Praying for love one



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**LaTressa McMillian** - May 19, 2025 at 06:56 PM

MR

“ My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Pope and McKenzie Family! 🙏



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**Minister H. L. Richardson** - April 29, 2025 at 03:29 PM

BS

“ Sending Sincerest Condolences and LOVE ❤️

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**Barbara Scott** - April 29, 2025 at 01:41 PM

RL

“ Rev. & Mrs. Archie Lee,II lit a candle in memory of Mattie Pope



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**Rev. & Mrs. Archie Lee,II** - April 29, 2025 at 01:04 PM

ST

“ Shady Grove Baptist church Trustees planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mattie Pope.

Shady Grove Baptist church Trustees - April 29, 2025 at 10:21 AM

ST

“ Shady Grove Baptist church Trustees purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mattie Pope.



Shady Grove Baptist church Trustees - April 29, 2025 at 10:21 AM

VN

“ Vanessa Nash lit a candle in memory of Mattie Pope



Vanessa Nash - April 28, 2025 at 06:19 PM

ER

*Sending love to you and your family Elaine Reynolds and family*

Elaine Reynolds - April 30, 2025 at 11:14 AM

CI

*Prayers for the family. Ms Mattie was a precious angel. Cindy @ CNG*

Cindy - May 06, 2025 at 04:42 PM

JH

“ Jackie Williams Hall lit a candle in memory of  
Mattie Pope



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**Jackie Williams Hall** - April 28, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DD

“ Deborah Dickerson lit a candle in memory of  
Mattie Pope



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**Deborah Dickerson** - April 27, 2025 at 10:32 PM

MD

“ Melody Dickerson lit a candle in memory of  
Mattie Pope



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**Melody Dickerson** - April 27, 2025 at 08:23 PM

MD

*Rest well my dear classmate & childhood friend. You fought a good  
fight !!!*

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**Melody Dickerson** - April 27, 2025 at 08:24 PM

BH

“ *Barbara Harmon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mattie Pope*



Barbara Harmon - April 27, 2025 at 03:35 PM

SF

“ *Sharon Fluker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mattie Pope*



Sharon Fluker - April 27, 2025 at 08:54 AM

CS

“ *My prayers and condolences for the Mckenzie and Pope families*

Chandra Swain - April 26, 2025 at 08:52 PM

MR

“ *My deepest heartfelt sympathy and sorrow to the Pope & Mckenzie families, I'm deeply saddened heartbroken she was like a daughter to me just not biological. but we never saw it that way.with heavy hearts today your sweet spirit and memories will forever be embedded in our hearts. " your other family " and to my son we will keep you lifted up in prayer for the dark days ahead. Mrs. Mary Ragland & Tim McKinney (Debra)* ☐☐🕊

Mary A. Ragland - April 26, 2025 at 05:24 PM

PB

“ My deepest condolences to the Pope and the McKenzie families, may God strengthen and comfort you all. R.I.P. classmate “Class if 82”



Pamela Bradford - April 26, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ Gwennette Duncan lit a candle in memory of Mattie Pope



Gwennette Duncan - April 26, 2025 at 01:11 PM

SJ

“ Won

Sis Shenetha Jones - April 26, 2025 at 01:06 PM

SJ

“ Mrs Mattie was a sweet lady I'm gonna miss seeing her & speaking to her after church fly high Mrs Mattie & take ur rest u fought a good fight ur battle has been.



Sis Shenetha Jones - April 26, 2025 at 01:05 PM

LP

“ *Sending up my prayers and condolences to my family during this difficult loss especially for my brother in law and her sons and rest of her entire family! Rest in Peace beautiful Angel! Your presence definitely will be miss! We love you*



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**Iori pope** - April 26, 2025 at 12:16 PM

CS

*My prayers and condolences to the Mckenzie and Pope family*

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**Chandra Swain** - April 26, 2025 at 12:55 PM

ER

*Sending prayers to each family may God bless you all with love Elaine Reynolds and family*

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**Elaine Reynolds** - April 26, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JF

*Too the family of Mrs. Mattie Ruth Mckenzie Pope your family are in our prayers 🙏 I enjoy growing up in needmore with her and her family you will be well missed LOVE the Faulkner and Jackson family*

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**John Faulkner** - April 29, 2025 at 02:52 PM

HS

*I send my deepest condolence to family and close friends all the way from Gainesville Florida, RIP aunt sleep in peace. I send my love Dion Suttle.*

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**Henry Suttle** - May 21, 2025 at 04:08 PM