



Samuel McKinney

November 29, 1974 - March 2, 2025

Born on November 29, 1974, to the parentage of Nona McKinney and Elijah Small, Samuel's life was a testament to the joys of family, laughter, and unwavering faith.

Samuel accepted Christ at a young age and united with Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Samuel accepted Christ at a young age and became a member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. His formative years were spent in Maryland, and upon returning to Alabama, he proudly graduated from Talladega High School. Samuel was dedicated to his work at ATAP until health challenges redirected his path, leading him to embrace the role of caregiver for his beloved nephew, Reginald "Lil Ro" McKinney.

An energetic spirit, Samuel was the life of every gathering-self-proclaimed DJ, storyteller, and comedian, he had the rare ability to evoke laughter and joy in those around him. Known affectionately as "Phat Rat," he found great pleasure in old school music, often singing along with abandon despite his charming lack of vocal prowess. His love for family was boundless; he cherished every moment spent with them and rejoiced in the company of friends. Football season was particularly special, as he delighted in watching Alabama Football surrounded by those he loved.

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, Samuel was called to eternal rest while surrounded by loved ones at Citizen's Baptist Medical Center in Talladega, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his mother, Nona McKinney, sisters, Sheila McKinney and Jackie McKinney, and granddaughter, Cupcake Johnson.

Samuel leaves to cherish his precious memories his beloved daughters, Montasia (Josh) Swain, Montesha Hartley, and Jamonica Johnson; father, Elijah Small; loving friend, Yolanda Holtzclaw; brothers, Henry (Marilyn) Willis, Leroy (Nanda) McKinney, Jr., and Norman (Leatrice) McKinney; sisters, Edna L. McKinney, Sherry M. Malone, Gladys F. Marrisett, Teresa M. (Demetrius) Vine, and Tonya Thorne; bonus brothers, Detrick English and LaBrian Funderburg; special nephew, Reginald "Lil Ro" McKinney; grandson, Ziquiez Jones; special nieces, Fatonya (Edmond) Green and Meldrikka McKinney; special friends, Jackie "Jack" Wilson, Steve Kelly, Randy Moss, and Tony Hunley; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

As we reflect on the vibrant life Samuel lived, let us carry forward his spirit of joy, love, and laughter in our hearts. He will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched. May he rest in eternal peace.

Cemetery Details

Lawler Cemetery

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 10. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

KF

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Samuel. I first met him when he was a teenager, and from the very beginning, he was a dear to me. His kindness, warmth and lovely spirit made a lasting impression, I feel fortunate to have known him.

Please know my thoughts and prayers are with the family during this incredibly difficult time.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Karshia Farrow*

Karshia Farrow - March 11, 2025 at 02:38 PM

MS

“ Mr. Terry & Natasha Swain purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Samuel McKinney.



Mr. Terry & Natasha Swain - March 11, 2025 at 07:35 AM

NS

“ Rest in Paradise.... You will be greatly missed. Love always 🕊️❤️

Natasha Swain - March 11, 2025 at 07:22 AM

SW

“ Sandra Dee Wilson lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Sandra Dee Wilson - March 10, 2025 at 11:12 PM

SW

Rest in peace, free from pain , free from struggle and remembered always!

Sandra Dee Wilson - March 10, 2025 at 11:19 PM

TC

“ Rest in Paradise lil Bro! 🙏



Tamila Cochran - March 10, 2025 at 11:09 PM

RB

“ Regina Truss Briskey lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Regina Truss Briskey - March 10, 2025 at 09:42 AM

RB

Sending prayers and love to the family of Samuel McKinney. Regina Truss Briskey

Regina Truss Briskey - March 10, 2025 at 09:44 AM

KC

“ Kathleen Carter lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Kathleen Carter - March 10, 2025 at 08:41 AM

DF

“ Denise & Wanda Isbell and Isbell family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Samuel McKinney.



Denise & Wanda Isbell and Isbell family - March 09, 2025 at 05:46 PM

CJ

“ I knew Samuel Mckinney as a very special kind of fellow. He kept a pleasant manner about himself and loved to make others laugh along with him. He loved people and they responded to him in kind. If only there were more people who brought joy to the world as Samuel did. He will be sorely missed by all. Charles "Chuck" Varner, Jr.

Charles Varner Jr - March 09, 2025 at 12:02 AM

LF

“ Love, The Fatonya McKinney Green Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Samuel McKinney.



Love, The Fatonya McKinney Green Family - March 08, 2025 at 03:48 PM

LF

“ Love, The Fatonya McKinney Green Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Samuel McKinney.

Love, The Fatonya McKinney Green Family - March 08, 2025 at 03:48 PM

SW

“ Sharon Welch lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Sharon Welch - March 08, 2025 at 02:25 PM

SS

“ Sandra Scott lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Sandra Scott - March 08, 2025 at 01:31 PM

KA

“ Kimiesha Adams lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Kimiesha Adams - March 08, 2025 at 12:41 PM

PP

“ *Pink Panther lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Pink Panther - March 08, 2025 at 10:21 AM

HF

“ *Hammonds Family lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Hammonds Family - March 07, 2025 at 04:39 PM

TA

“ *TAKEESHA lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



TAKEESHA - March 07, 2025 at 10:29 AM

TA

SENDING MY PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

TAKEESHA - March 07, 2025 at 10:30 AM

RM

“ Regina McKinney lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Regina McKinney - March 06, 2025 at 11:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Samuel McKinney.



March 06, 2025 at 10:59 PM

TL

“ Lots of memories come to mind, but one in particular...I was riding my dad's motorcycle on Davis Street in Knoxville one day when you hopped on. We were probably about 13 or so, all I know is after that we were locked in. I choose to remember that moment among others. My prayers and condolences to all family and friends.

Terrence Lawson - March 06, 2025 at 08:13 PM

AS

“ Annette Servant lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Annette Servant - March 06, 2025 at 07:09 PM

TC

“ *Tonja Chatman lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Tonja Chatman - March 06, 2025 at 05:15 PM

AF

“ *Angela Freeman lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Angela Freeman - March 06, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ *Gwennette Duncan lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Gwennette Duncan - March 05, 2025 at 02:38 PM

GW

“ *Gwendolyn Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Gwendolyn Wilson - March 05, 2025 at 10:48 AM

TD

“ Tina Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Tina Dickerson - March 05, 2025 at 02:03 AM

DD

“ Deborah Dickerson lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Deborah Dickerson - March 04, 2025 at 11:13 PM

VC

“ Valerie Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Valerie Cunningham - March 04, 2025 at 08:18 PM

BH

“ Barbara Harmon sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel McKinney



Barbara Harmon - March 04, 2025 at 08:07 PM

AM

“ My deepest sympathy to the family he was such a good friend he will truly missed

Annie McClellan - March 04, 2025 at 05:17 PM

AL

“ Aretha Lawrence-freeman lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney



Aretha Lawrence-freeman - March 04, 2025 at 10:00 AM

PB

“ My deepest condolences to the McKinney and Small families. May God give you all strength during this difficult time..... Mont you will truly be missed by the many lives you've touched during your journey. So sorry for your loss may God comfort you all as he slowly mend your broken hearts. R.I.P.gone but will never be forgotten ...



Pamela Bradford - March 04, 2025 at 12:37 AM

ER

We are praying 🙏 for you and your family with love ❤️ Elaine Reynolds and family

Elaine Reynolds - March 05, 2025 at 09:12 PM

SF

“ *Sharon Fluker lit a candle in memory of Samuel McKinney*



Sharon Fluker - March 03, 2025 at 10:15 PM