



Mr. William J. McKinley

May 14, 1928 - March 7, 2025

William James McKinley, age 96, beloved husband of Betty F. McKinley n'ee Kacmar; loving father of William (Liz) McKinley, Bonnie (Ted) Goldsmith, Michael (Brenda Stenerson) McKinley, Martin (Audrey) McKinley, Mark McKinley and Matthew (Dawn) McKinley; proud Grandpa of William (Jessica) McKinley, Molly (Bryan) Headley, Katie (Jeff) Rice, Amy (Matthew) Doyle, Christopher (Nicole) Goldsmith, Brendan McKinley, Michaela McKinley, Ben McKinley, Rebecca (Tim) Scott, Morgan McKinley, Matthew (Chloe) McKinley, Jake McKinley; and his great grandchildren, Maximillian "Max" McKinley, Mia "Koko" McKinley, Jay Headley, Theodore "Teddy" Rice, Olivia Rice, Cooper Doyle, Brooks Doyle, McKinley Doyle, Bray Goldsmith, Greer Goldsmith, Robert "Bobby" Gazca, and Kamryn "Kammy" Gazca; dear brother of Donna (Edward) Hornyak; and fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Bill McKinley was born May 14, 1928 in Cleveland, OH and passed away peacefully on March 7, 2025 in Woodstock, GA leaving behind countless memories and an incredible legacy.

Bill grew up in Cleveland, OH and was the oldest of four children. He attended high school at Benedictine Catholic High School in Cleveland and when Japan surrendered at the end of WWII he won a football scholarship to the University of Dayton where he earned a degree in history. He met the love of his life, Betty Kacmar, while attending college. After college he taught at Catholic

Central High school in Springfield and coached a winning football team. Bill and Betty were soon married on July 28, 1951 at St. Francis de Sales in Parma. Bill transitioned from coaching football to sales. His sales career culminated as the National Sales Director for MACTAC/Bemis Corporation.

Bill was very sociable and fun to watch as he interacted with people. He had an incredible memory and easily recalled the names of football teammates, scores of football games, and names of coaches and players on the opposing team. He earned the nickname of Scooter while playing football at the University of Dayton for coach Harry Boujan at a time when WWII combat veterans were returning to school. He played old school football with leather helmets with no face guards. He was small in comparison to his teammates; however, he played with a lot of heart. He played halfback and was voted as the “Best Blocking Back” by his teammates.

When Betty passed away, Bill found love again in 1998 at the age of 70 with his high school friend, Doris Champion McKinley. They shared a happy life together in St. George Village, Roswell, Georgia, until Doris's gentle soul departed in 2014.

Later in life, Bill loved to sit on the front porch and joke with friends as they walked past the house. He had a fun sense of humor, was quick to crack a smile, and tell a joke! We will always be grateful for his almost 100 years of continuous life coaching and consummate teaching he provided to everyone he ever met.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, William G. and Bernice (Kaska); his wife, Betty (Kacmar) McKinley; wife, Doris Champion McKinley; his brother, Bernard (Delores) McKinley; his sister, Mary Joan (Thomas) Lanese; and his grandchildren Adam McKinley and Timothy McKinley.

A memorial mass honoring William's life will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 10:30am at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church in Roswell, GA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the University of Dayton (<https://udayton.edu/wesoar/give.php>) or St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAGJ/campaign/C-13RQM>).

Cemetery Details

Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAR 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church
11330 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall



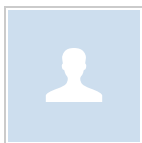
“ *My only regret is not having the opportunity to meet this wonderful man. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends.*

Patricia Marar - May 18, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *I've got a vivid memory of Bill's second wife, Doris Campion who he was happily married to for over 16 years. A major part of his life not even mentioned in his long very inclusive obit. An oversight? I think not....*

Nancy Oxenfeldt - April 20, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ *A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. William J. McKinley.*

March 13, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. William J. McKinley.*

March 12, 2025 at 10:01 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William J. McKinley.*



March 12, 2025 at 10:01 AM

CM

“ *Chloe & Matthew McKinley purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mr. William J. McKinley.*



Chloe & Matthew McKinley - March 11, 2025 at 07:37 PM

DM

“ *My most memorable experience . Driving in a car with him from cleveland to dayton. Just being twelve years Old. I learned a lot that day. Yes, we are going to miss his sense of humor. And powering voice. God. Bless.*

Daniel Mckinley - March 10, 2025 at 10:05 PM