

## Mitchell Willard McKay

March 15, 2024

Funeral services for Mitchell Willard McKay, 84, of Jacksonville, will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 2 pm at Jacksonville First Baptist Church at Eagle Point with the Reverend Derek Staples officiating. Burial will follow at Jacksonville City Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church from 12 - 2pm. Mr. McKay left his earthly home and went to the arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Friday, March 15, 2024, surrounded by his beloved wife and children. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Dorothy McKay, of Stemley, a daughter, Amy McCreless (Allen) of Jacksonville, a son, John McKay (Melody) of Spring Garden; four grandchildren, Jacob McCreless, Jonah McCreless, Sarah Kate McKay, and Mitchell McKay. Pallbearers will be John McKay, Allen McCreless, Jacob McCreless, Jonah McCreless, Mitchell McKay, Dylan Smith and the Lineville High School Class of 1958. Mr. McKay was born in Barfield, Alabama and grew up in the Lineville area. He was a 1958 graduate of Lineville High School, and grew up on a farm. Mr. McKay was able to attend Jacksonville State College thanks to his cow, Brooksie. She was given to him when he was a boy, and the yearly sale of her calves provided the funds he needed to attend college, ultimately resulting in his 58 year career as an educator. While attending Jacksonville State College, Mr. McKay earned degrees in biology and math, and he also served in Advanced ROTC. Upon his graduation in 1962, he was commissioned in the United States Army as Second Lieutenant. In 1962, McKay taught math at Clay County High School. From 1963-1965 he was

stationed in Germany and served as a platoon leader in a Hawk Missile Unit, where he was promoted to First Lieutenant. After his active service to the United States Army, he returned to his calling of teaching and taught biology and math at Winterboro High School. It was there that he met his wife and fellow educator, Dorothy Sanders. In addition to teaching at Winterboro, he taught at Talladega College as part of the Upward Bound Program. While at Winterboro, McKay was selected to receive a National Science Foundation stipend, he was granted a leave of absence, and moved to Athens, Georgia, where he earned his Master's Degree in Science Education from the University of Georgia. In the fall of 1968, McKay and his wife moved to Jacksonville, where he taught Biology at Jacksonville High School until 1974. In addition, he completed his AA Certificate in Secondary Education from Jacksonville State University. From 1974-2000, he served as Principal of Jacksonville High School. He loved his faculty, staff and students. He knew the name of every student, and he was a positive leader who believed that every child should be treated fairly and with dignity and respect. In turn, under his leadership, Jacksonville High School was a positive place to work, learn and grow. In 2000, McKay retired as principal, but his service in education continued as he worked for Jacksonville State University by serving as an adjunct faculty member. He found joy in supervising practicum and student teachers because he felt that they were about to embark upon the greatest profession that could make a difference in the lives of others. Remarkably, he continued to work at JSU until 2020. He was 80 years old and his career had lasted 58 years.

# Cemetery Details

## Jacksonville City Cemetery

910 Church Avenue SE  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 19. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Jacksonville First Baptist Church at EaglePoint  
301 Henry Road  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

## Service

MAR 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

Jacksonville First Baptist Church at EaglePoint  
301 Henry Road  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

## Burial

MAR 19 (CT)

Jacksonville City Cemetery  
910 Church Avenue SE  
Jacksonville, AL 36265



# Tribute Wall

DC

“ Mitchell McKay was a wise and gentle leader and mentor. He believed in me when I was a young and inexperienced teacher at Jacksonville High School and continued to encourage my growth as an educator. A man of integrity, he made others feel valued as he interacted with them. As a principal, he fostered in students, as well as in teachers, the drive to achieve individual and common goals. He maintained professionalism while showing genuine concern for each person under his leadership. Mitchell McKay's influence will live on.



Donna Lessenberry Crouch - April 15, 2024 at 11:02 PM

AM

“ Amy McKay McCreless lit a candle in memory of Mitchell Willard McKay



Amy McKay McCreless - March 23, 2024 at 11:18 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mitchell Willard McKay.



March 19, 2024 at 09:48 PM

BD

“ *"The Jacksonville City School System was truly blessed with a truly genuine high school principal who conveyed safety, supported academics, as well as athletics.*

*Continue to soar into the heavens, and we all thank you for the blessings of giving us our Golden Eagle 🦅 wings."*

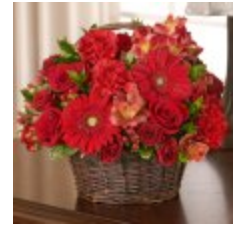
*Billy Davis '80-'86  
Teacher/Coach*

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**Billy Davis** - March 19, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Mitchell Willard McKay.*



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March 18, 2024 at 10:22 AM

JR

“ *Judy R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mitchell Willard McKay.*

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**Judy R.** - March 18, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mitchell Willard McKay.*



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March 18, 2024 at 10:19 AM

J1

“ JHS Class of 1984 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mitchell Willard McKay.

JHS Class of 1984 - March 18, 2024 at 10:19 AM

JB

“ Julie Ragsdale Broadway purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mitchell Willard McKay.



Julie Ragsdale Broadway - March 17, 2024 at 07:25 PM

KL

“ Simply Put.....Mr. McKay was a Good Man, a Great Human and a Humble Christian.

Kenneth Law - March 17, 2024 at 08:00 AM



“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Mitchell Willard McKay.



March 16, 2024 at 10:50 PM

DJ

“ Dee Dee Fiquett Gordon, Katie, and Jack planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mitchell Willard McKay.

Dee Dee Fiquett Gordon, Katie, and Jack - March 16, 2024 at 10:50 PM