



Rebecca McKenzie

February 8, 1943 - July 5, 2010

Bluefield, WV- Rebecca A. “Becky” McKenzie, 67, of Bluefield was released from suffering to a new life on Monday, July 5, 2010. Becky had valiantly fought the increasingly debilitating physical and emotional torment of Parkinson’s Disease for the past twenty-two years, and was confined to bed and wheelchair for much of the last five years of her life. She was born in Beacon, New York on February 8, 1943, the daughter of Robert K. & Ruth Woodall Gould. She attended public schools in New Jersey and North Carolina, and graduated with honors from Cocoa High School in Cocoa, Florida. Becky attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she met Keith McKenzie. Following their marriage in December, 1963, she graduated in the spring of 1964 with a Bachelors Degree in French. After their graduation, Becky and Keith moved to Bluefield, where she was active in community life. Joining Bland Street Methodist Church, Becky helped lead the Methodist Youth Fellowship and Sundry School Classes. She played handbells at Bland Street Church and also served as Treasurer. Becky was an accomplished organist, serving local churches as needed. She was very involved in a range of youth activities as their children grew up, from scouting to basketball, tennis, baseball, soccer, choir, and PTA, among many others. Certified to teach in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, Becky taught in various positions with Mercer County Schools for nearly 20 years until Parkinson’s Disease forced her into Disability Retirement. Becky touched the lives of many young people, through both church and teaching, and was often

visited by the remarkable young adults she had encouraged years earlier through their challenges in school. While teaching full time, Becky earned a Master's Degree in Humanities from Marshall University and had completed the credit hours necessary for a Doctorate Degree, lacking only her thesis at the time of her retirement. She was certified to teach French at all grade levels and English at the secondary level, and finished her teaching career at Montcalm High School. Prior to the onset of Parkinson's Disease, Becky was very active, playing tennis several times a week and enjoying alpine skiing with her family. She was a lifelong baseball fan, rarely missing any Bluefield Orioles' minor league baseball home games, and an avid college basketball fan, cheering her favorite Blue Devils through their frequent tournament appearances. Becky is survived by her stepmother, Clara Lou Gould of Beacon, NY; her husband of 47 years, Keith McKenzie, of the home; her son Kent, his wife PennySue and their children Quinn and Tempest of Lindenhurst, IL; her son Ross, his wife Libbie and children Will and Andrew of Chapel Hill, NC; and her cousin Lee Smith and her partner Ginger Newton of Durham NC; and her faithful caregiver, Katrina Robinson of Glenwood. Becky's family will share memories and receive visitors at their home, 812 Albemarle Street in Bluefield, on Thursday, July 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and any other convenient time. A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Bland Street United Methodist Church in Bluefield, the Reverend D. Homer Stewart officiating. In accordance with Becky's wishes, the family encourages donations in Becky's memory to the Music Fund of the Friends of Duke Chapel (www.gifts.duke.edu/chapel) or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (www.MichaelJFox.org). Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com. Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Rebecca A. "Becky" McKenzie.

Tribute Wall



“ *Rebecca McKenzie*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *On behalf of our family to yours, we know that she is in heaven looking down and saying I'm alright, I'm at peace. Kent it was a pleasure to meet your parents when they visited us in the office. Mr. McKenzie I know this is truly a difficult time, but I know you and family did the best anyone could ask for to make her comfortable. Please accept my family condolences, and prayers.*

The Jackson Family - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM



“ *To the McKenzie Family, I am very sorry for your loss. Mrs. McKenzie was my AP English and French teacher during my senior year of high school at Montcalm. When you walked into her classroom, she always greeted you with a smile. She made learning a wonderful experience and was always a joy to be around. The world has truly lost an amazing person. God Bless.*

Brandi Mitchem - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM



“ *Our sympathies are with your family. We have fond memories of Becky and she will be sorely missed.*

William and Carmelita Peters - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

S(

“ Dear Keith I was very sorry to learn about Rebecca's passing. Please know that I truly enjoyed knowing her and you, She was a painstaking graduate student back in the late 1980s. She will be missed by the educational community. You are in my thoughts and prayers at your time of loss. Be well. Jammy

Sudhakar R. jamkhandi (Jammy) - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

LS

“ To Kent and your family, We are saddened by your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family in this time of morning.

Lee & Diane Shannon - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

WS

“ In behalf of the Officers and Members of the Antioch Rescue Squad, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to Mrs. McKenzie's family and to our friend Kent. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Wayne A. Sobczak, Chief Antioch Rescue Squad Antioch, Illinois

Wayne A. Sobczak - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

LR

“ Our heartfelt condolences to the family. While we never met Rebecca, we do know her son, an obvious example of her success and ability as a mother and mentor.

Len and Susan Revelle - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

HD

“ KEITH; I AM SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOST. YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND. HERSHEL

HERSHEL DENNY - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

RF

“ Dearest Keith, Ross, Kent & Families, I am so glad our friend back home called to tell me of Becky's passing. My heart is so heavy for you and my prayers are certainly with you. It was so touching to see how you cared for Becky and I know you will miss her terribly. God will carry you in His Arms of Love and Comfort during the days ahead as emotions and memories assail. May His Peace abide in your hearts. God bless you all. Love, Rusty

Rusty Lusk & family - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

JB

“ The grief that is felt in the loss of a loved one is known only to each individual. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Rebecca. It is our hope that the memories that she left can provide them some comfort.

Jack and Melissa Ball - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

BE

“ We would like the entire McKenzie family especially Kent, Penny, Quinn and Tempest to know that our thoughts, prayers and love are with you all at this time of your loss and sorrow. Remember all of the good memories that you have accumulated over a lifetime with your mother she will always be with you in your hearts. Lots of Love and Prayers to all.

Breakall Family extended - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

PB

“ Keith, Kent, Ross, and family. I was so sad to hear of Becky's passing, but glad that her suffering is over and she is in the arms of God. You are all in my prayers at this very difficult time. God be with you! Pam (Homer and Zelma Stewart's daughter)

Pam Stewart Broderick - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

LT

“ Keith, Ross, Kent and all the family, I am so sorry at the passing of your love one. I know you all have been wonderful to her all these years. I pray you find strength and comfort in knowing you did all you could for her. Much Love and Prayers Libby

Libby McKenzie Tabor - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

LR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. McKenzie was my French teacher in High School. She was a great woman! She will forever go on in our hearts and memories. Tu nous manqueras Mrs. McKenzie.

Laura (Hudgins) Riggs - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

WG

“ It is with great sadness I learn of Becky's departure, as we have lost truly an amazing person. My condolences to the McKenzie family. Becky was my teacher, and a mentor. But more than that she was my friend. She saw something in me that I did not see in myself, and inspired me to always strive greatness, to never quit learning, and that the sky will always be the limit. For the impact that she made on life, I am forever grateful. "Oh, the place's you will go." -- Dr. Seuss

Weston Gordon - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

JG

“ We are very sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Regards, Joan

Joan Grasswick - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

JL

“ I remember working with Becky at Bland Street Church over 24 yrs. ago. She was a pleasure to be with. Always smiling and willing to help. I never knew of her illness, however, my heart goes out to her and the family, knowing the challenge all of you had facing you each day. God Bless You, Joan Lockhart

Joan G. Lockhart - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

BR

“ I knew her best when we were young. A protective mother watching over her flock. Sitting on the porch with a good book.

Bruce - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

TF

“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss. She was a remarkable lady. Be strong and celebrate her memory with your family. Contact us if we can be of help, Mom is still in Bluefield, I am in Raleigh NC. -Joe and Libby Lavender

The Lavender family - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

SM

“ So sorry for your loss. I lost my mom and dad last year within 6 mos of each other, and I still struggle. Prayers are going up for you and your family.

Sherrie Mooney - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

JM

“ So sorry to here of this. I know that she's in a much much better place. My prayers are with you all. I'm sure that through all this better days will prevail. God Bless! Jon

Jon McKenzie - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM

ML

“ We heard about Becky from Wayne. These past years have been a difficult time for you. The lord has moved to give you both some peace. Our prayers are with you.

Millard & Gail Lambert - March 07, 2014 at 04:21 PM