



Alex M. McRae

March 21, 1947 - April 10, 2024

Alex Malcolm McRae of Newnan passed away on April 10, 2024, at Piedmont Newnan Hospital following a valiant battle with heart disease, surpassing his doctors' expectations and certainly his own. He was born on March 21, 1947, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of Alex and Erie Greene McRae. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Alabama, and Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. At both schools, music became a lifelong passion, and he remained close to his band friends throughout his life. During one memorable gig, he played backup for Stevie Wonder. Alex went on to pursue a career as a band director, first in Opp, Alabama, and then at Newnan High School, and he was fond of saying that he hoped he didn't inflict too much damage on his students.

Alex also worked in banking and real estate before landing at the Newnan Times-Herald, first as the anonymous columnist "Zeke Greene" and then as a reporter and feature writer. There, he became known for his witty and whimsical columns as well as the feature stories he enjoyed writing to spotlight Coweta's many unique individuals. When the newspaper launched its own TV station, he became one of the anchors for News Channel 9, an early morning program where his irreverent twist on the local news developed quite a fan following.

During a thirty-plus year career in journalism, Alex won over forty major writing awards and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His newspaper columns were

published in several Georgia newspapers, and his magazine feature stories appeared in New York-based Mediaweek, Atlanta magazine, South Walton Life, Newnan-Coweta Magazine, Speed! Illustrated, Paydirt and College Football Replay. His two books included a collection of his columns, Ain't No Gentle Cycle on the Washing Machine of Love, and his novel, Rough Draft, which was released in the spring of 2020. He was busily working on his second novel at the time of his death.

He leaves to treasure his memory his wife, Angela Webster McRae of Newnan; his beloved children, Heather (Brad) Willems of DePere, Wisconsin, and Hunter (Naomi) McRae of Buford, Georgia; his much-loved grandchildren, Bella McRae and Owen McRae of Buford and Michael Willems and Andrew Willems (aka "the Badger Boys") of DePere, Wisconsin; his sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Howard Kitchens of Anniston, Alabama; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. The family also wishes to acknowledge the outstanding care of his beloved Encompass home health nurse, Joanna Johnson (whom he nicknamed JoJo), and Dr. Andrew Darlington of Piedmont Newnan Hospital.

As he wished, Alex's remains will be cremated, and family and friends are welcome to join in celebrating his life at a memorial service at his church, First Baptist Church of Newnan, on Sunday, April 14, at 2 p.m. The family will greet friends in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be made to the AO House (food and clothing pantry) at First Baptist Church, 15 W. Washington St., Newnan, 30263, or to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Visitation

APR 14. 2:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Angela, I was so sad to learn of your loss. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. Sending much love.* ”

Sheila Farr - April 23, 2024 at 05:17 PM

BF

“ *Angela, I'm so sorry for your loss. I was blessed to have worked with him for 17 years. I'll miss his Christmas stories that he wrote for the parties at your house. He was a wonderful writer and an even better human being. I'll never forget the time that he came to my house to do a story on the drought and the 18 trees that were downed by beaver. He took my photo while standing in a nest of chiggers.* ”

Bob Fraley - April 16, 2024 at 03:42 AM



“ *I was privileged to have met Alex and Angela on several occasions at NTH functions and of course, Alex's book signing. This candle represents the light he left in my life and the lives of others through his humorous writings. "Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come. "* ”



Margaret Kilgore - April 13, 2024 at 12:28 AM

CF

“ *Carelock & Webster Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Alex M. McRae.*



Carelock & Webster Family - April 12, 2024 at 07:43 PM

MS

“ *You don't know me, but I so enjoyed reading the articles and columns written by Alex McRae. I have missed his presence in the paper.*

Myna Sain - April 12, 2024 at 03:21 PM

SR

“ *Angela, My thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. I was so shocked to see this post. God Bless you.*
Suzette Rikard

Suzette Rikard - April 12, 2024 at 11:21 AM



“ *Angela, I am so very sorry to hear of Alex's passing. I was not privileged to know him, but I read his columns for years and enjoyed each one. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Edwina Cowgill

Edwina Cowgill - April 12, 2024 at 11:05 AM

BB

“ Alex and my brother Will worked together at the paper. I met Angela thru my brother. I did not know Alex that well only thru Angela. I went to their wedding when they got married. They make a beautiful couple. I love reading Angela's Tea Blog when they went on day trips together. You all will be in my prayers that God will give you comfort and strength during this time.

Beth Blair - April 12, 2024 at 09:24 AM

RW

“ I had the privilege of working with Alex at Newnan High School in 1977-78 as his Assistant Band Director. He was a great mentor and had a great sense of humor. He will be deeply missed.

Rick White - April 12, 2024 at 08:14 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Alex M. McRae.



April 12, 2024 at 12:23 AM

SH

“ I was fortunate to have been in the Pride of Dixie Robert E. Lee High School band and in the Sound of the South with Alex. There was never a dull moment when Alex was around!

Susan Bush Helms - April 11, 2024 at 09:22 PM

SM

“ I'm glad I had a chance to meet Alex and listen to him speak about his books at Hometown Novel Night.

Sharon Marchisello - April 11, 2024 at 09:08 PM

TR

“ While I didn't personally know Alex, I am friends with Angela Webster McRae (since the 80s in college). My heart goes out to her and also to his family. I know Angela and Alex had a great life together and I'm so glad they found each other.

Terri Rimmer - April 11, 2024 at 07:38 PM

BB

Alex and my brother Will worked together at the paper. I did not know Alex that well only thru Angela. I met Angela thru my brother. We went to a lot of Afternoon Teas together at different Tearooms. My passion of Tea came from Angela. I went to Angela and Alex Wedding. They were a beautiful couple. My heart goes out to Angela and the family. You all will be in my prayers.

Beth Blair - April 11, 2024 at 09:36 PM

JE

“ Angela, I am so sad to hear about Alex. I so enjoyed his speaking to the Kiwanis Club of Coweta County. Many prayers for you and the family.

Joan Exner - April 11, 2024 at 07:23 PM

SM

“ Angela, I am so sorry to hear about Alex. My heart breaks for you. I never knew Alex, but I knew of his musical talents as well as his writing talent. Not many people can experience so many gifts, let alone share those gifts with adults and children alike. Bless you and your family. Sally Millians

Sally Millians - April 11, 2024 at 03:50 PM

RD

“ I knew Alex very well during my years at Troy (1067-71). We played in the Sound of the South together and the Early Tymes rock band. Highly gifted, funny, and a joy to be around. My sincere condolences to his family.

Roger Keith Daniel - April 11, 2024 at 03:21 PM

JW

“ Angela and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all in the difficult days ahead. Alex was a pillar in the Newnan-Coweta County community. He will be missed by so many.

Jennifer Welch - April 11, 2024 at 03:02 PM

LM

“ I remember coming to work at Newschannel 9 in the fall of 1997. As it was housed in the same building as The Newnan Times-Herald, I was introduced to all of the journalists on staff. Alex immediately made me feel comfortable with his sense of humor and sarcasm. I worked a lot with Alex since he had a “variety” show on Channel 9. He did everything from interview local politicians, to “cooking”, to setting random objects on fire. Regardless, he kept us all wildly entertained and for that, Alex has always held a special place in my heart. There will never be another like Alex. ❤️

Leigh McGuffey - April 11, 2024 at 01:36 PM

KC

Dear Angela and family I am so sorry to hear of Alex' passing. I went to Troy with him and was a member of the SOTS with him. He was so quick witted that one had to stay on his toes to catch much of it! I enjoyed his syndicated columns in my hometown newspaper for years. He will be missed by many friends. Praying for you and all the family.

Kay Cole - April 11, 2024 at 06:03 PM

GW

“ *I remember Alex from his days directing the band at Newnan High. He was a talented man who was very important to his community. May the memories of your years together comfort you in this difficult time.*



Geraldine Welch - April 11, 2024 at 12:26 PM

KH

“ *Alex was always the same person wherever you saw him. He will be missed. Prayers for Angela .*
Kay Hogan

kay hogan - April 11, 2024 at 12:03 PM