



Bennie Lee McDonald

July 12, 1948 - March 19, 2016

Bennie Lee McDonald III, age 67, passed away Saturday, March 19, 2016 at his home in Newnan. He was born July 12, 1948 in Wichita Falls, TX to the late Bennie Lee McDonald Jr. and Gracie Belle Jones McDonald.

In High School Ben was an Eagle scout and was a member of the R.O.T.C. program. After graduating MidWestern University he joined the Army, and was stationed at Fort Sill, OK. In 1970 he moved to Macon, GA and began working at MCCG Ambulance Service as an EMT then Paramedic later becoming the Director of EMS. Due to health issues Ben completed his service at the MCCG as a dispatcher retiring in 2003 and moving to Newnan.

The family will receive friends from 1 PM until service time on Thursday at McKoon funeral home in Newnan. Funeral Services are Thursday, March 24th at 2 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home with Leon Jones officiating. Burial will follow the service at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Ben is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, Joanna Strickland McDonald: son, Bennie Lee McDonald IV, and wife Amber (Emily); daughter, Joanna Rebecca McDonald (Alexa and Allyson); sister, Jo Gayle Mills; brothers, Donald Allen McDonald , Neil Ryce McDonald.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 550, Atlanta, GA 30346 or American Cancer Society, 301 Kelly Dr., Peachtree City, GA 30269. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home 38 Jackson St. Newnan GA 30263 770-253-4580

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 24. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Service

MAR 24. 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Bennie Lee McDonald*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - March 24, 2016 at 08:07 AM

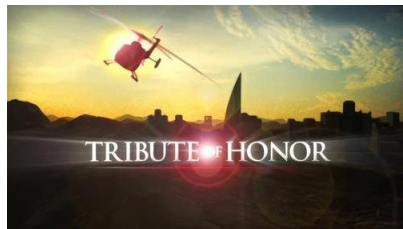
JM

This was a wonderful web service! Thank you, McKoon Funeral Home for providing it. This meant do much to me! Gayle Mills

Jo Gayle Mills - March 24, 2016 at 02:58 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Bennie Lee McDonald*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - March 23, 2016 at 12:08 PM

AB

I am deeply saddened to hear of Ben's death. I was honored to have worked with Ben at The Medical Center. Working in EMS can be extremely stressful, but whether Ben was working on the ambulance or dispatching, he was always soft spoken, kind, and gentle. Ben had a dry sense of humor and every once in awhile he would crack a joke and if you weren't paying attention, it would go right over your head because he always maintained that stoic look on his face. I admired Ben's dedication and professionalism. In EMS circles, Ben was affectionately known as "Papa Bear" because of his fatherly presence. I sincerely pray that Ben's family is comforted by God's Grace. My Deepest Condolences.

Anthony Brown - March 23, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bennie Lee McDonald.*



March 23, 2016 at 09:26 PM

SK

“ *Joanne and family,*

Thinking of you and your family today and in the difficult days to follow. Ben was a legend in his own time at MCCG and Will be greatly missed. Words can't express the sadness I feel for you and yours.

Love

*Stephanie Kitchens,
MCCG 1993-present*

Stephanie Kitchens - March 23, 2016 at 08:32 PM



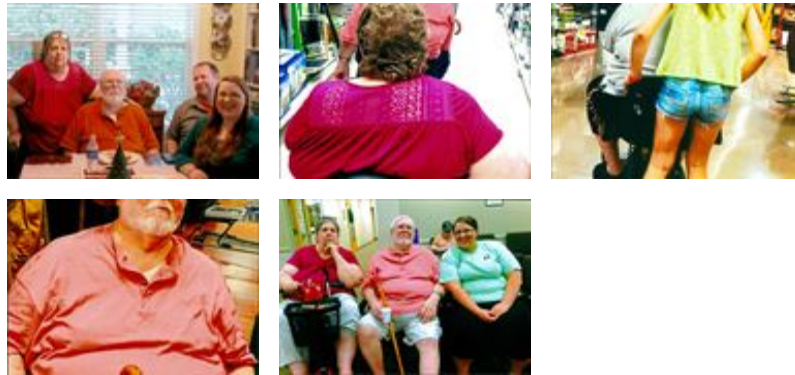
“ Joanna,
It has been many years since I worked with Ben and you at the MCCG EC...I have always admired Ben for the Professional he was everyday. I enjoyed learning from him and working together whenever we did. My Prayers are with you and your Family during this time of loss. God Bless you all!!!!

*Cliff Rushin
Retired Asst. Fire Chief MBCFD*

Cliff Rushin - March 23, 2016 at 03:14 PM



“ 68 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - March 23, 2016 at 12:05 PM



“ Dearest Joanna,

So many years have passed since we've spoken and I am further saddened that it is at this moment I am reaching out to express how much you and Ben meant to me and how much I respected and admired you both back in those 70's days in the MCCG ER.

I remember Ben being passionate about his work and compassionate in its performance. Both of you were so instrumental in the the incredible transition that happened during that period of time from an Emergency Room and Ambulance Service to a modern Emergency Department and EMS.

Words seem to fail at times like this but my prayer for you is for peace and strength for each day. Sending love and hugs and gratitude that I was able to call Ben Friend.

*Sherry Carpenter Popham
MCCG 1972-1980*

Sherry Popham - March 23, 2016 at 08:17 AM

DF

“ Dear Joanna,
I just heard from Leon yesterday and read of Ben's passing in the paper today. I just want you to know how much I thought of Ben and do think of you. All the progress MCCG made over the years was made possible by the dedication of folks like you both and the can-do attitude of MCCG EMS and the EC. I have more fond memories than you can shake a stick at, and wouldn't trade the trials, tribulations, AND THE JOURNEY with good friends like you for anything.

Ben was a great guy, and we all will miss knowing he is around us here, but I do strongly believe he is in a very special place, away from the trials of this world. I pray for peace for you as you work your way through the days, weeks and months ahead. I know you have the support of many because of the lives you both touched over all the years. I know you made my life better from having known you as my friends.

Don Faulk
MCCG 1971-2012

Don Faulk - March 22, 2016 at 09:49 PM

KG

“ Peace and love to you all during this time.

Kimberly Evans Gilstrap - March 22, 2016 at 09:05 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Bennie Lee McDonald.



March 22, 2016 at 05:35 PM

JM

“ My fondest memory of Ben L was in Burkburnett. The two sisters; Gracie and Josephine were seeing each other for the last time. They were each in their wheelchairs, holding each other's hand. Ben L, David and I watched them happily/sadly. It was a very poignant moment. When it came time to go; Ben L and David together very carefully lifted each of them down the front steps in their wheelchairs. Ben L was a very loving man and he will be missed but always in our hearts!❤️

Jo Gayle Mills - March 22, 2016 at 11:05 AM

AN

“ Truly friends that have become family! I love you all. I know he was at peace and comfortable. I hope this brings your family peace too. Always here for! Lots of love and prayers. Love The Loughrans - Antje, Keith, Kassi, and Bradley

antje - March 22, 2016 at 08:04 AM

MG

“ Ben was a great co-worker and paramedic but an even greater friend. I enjoyed all the conversations and the stories he told always made my day better. He will surely be missed. Joanna you and the family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Marvin and Robbie Giddens - March 22, 2016 at 05:08 AM

RC

“ Joanna and family, I was sad to hear of Ben's death. I have many fond memories of working with both of you in the emergency room at MCCG. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.
Rebecca Cogburn, RN EC 1986-1997

Rebecca Cogburn - March 21, 2016 at 06:44 PM

JC

“ Joanna, I was so sorry to hear about Ben. He was a great guy. My prayers are with you and your family.

Jan Colquitt

Jan Colquitt - March 21, 2016 at 02:18 PM

RD

“ We are so saddened at the loss of such a wonderful paramedic and friend. There are so many wonderful memories of Ben, Joanna, Benjamin and Rebecca. We love you all so very much. There is such a hole in our hearts with the loss of such a great person.



Rob, Tanya and Joshua Dittman - March 21, 2016 at 11:20 AM

RD

Rob, Tanya and Josh

Rob, Tanya and Joshua Dittman - March 21, 2016 at 11:21 AM

JB

“ To the Family of Mr. McDonald, I express my sincere condolences and appreciation for the dedicated life of public service that Bennie so admirably provided. You are with our EMS Families thoughts and prayers.

*Jason Brady
EMS Director of Operations
The Medical Center Navicent Health
Emergency medical Services Division*

Jason Brady - March 21, 2016 at 10:12 AM