



James "Al" Kennedy

January 10, 1941 - July 31, 2025

Mr. James Albert (Al) Kennedy, 84, of Newnan, formerly of Culleoka, TN, and Columbia, TN, passed away Thursday, July 31, 2025 at home. He was born January 10, 1941 at the Kings Daughters Hospital in Columbia, TN, to the late Carlton Abner Kennedy and Ruby Drake Kennedy. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Dr. John Henry (Jack) Kennedy. Al grew up in Culleoka, TN, and was a graduate of Columbia Military Academy. He graduated from Duke University where he majored in mechanical engineering in 1962 with honors in Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, Pi Mu Epsilon and Phi Beta Sigma. He began his engineering career at Monsanto Chemical Company (1962-1972) in Columbia and continued to work with Monsanto in East Stroudsburg, PA, and St. Louis, MO, and Chemtech Industries (1973-1977) also in St. Louis. In 1977, Al joined the William L. Bonnell Company and settled in Newnan, GA. In 1989, he established his own company, Kennedy Eurotech. He worked as a consultant to many in the aluminum extrusion field, wrote technical articles, and represented international high-tech companies in the aluminum community. His technical manual, *Extrusion Press Maintenance Manual*, is considered a benchmark textbook on the subject. In 2024, the Aluminum Extruders Council bestowed him with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. He continued to consult and to work on keeping his manual updated until only months before his death. Al was a member of the Newnan Kiwanis Club for over 45 years and especially enjoyed sitting at the ticket gate at the fair every fall and

greeting everyone. His warmth and his gentle wit will be missed by his family and his friends. He was a longtime member of the Church of Christ and was most recently worshipping with the Cedar Grove Church of Christ in Fairburn, GA.

Al is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandra Richardson Kennedy, son Andy (Karen) Kennedy; daughters Alice (Craig) Jackson and Elizabeth Brownlee; grandchildren Christopher (Daysha) Brownlee, Cole Kennedy, Madison Brownlee, Oren Kennedy, Jacob Brownlee; great granddaughter Natalie Rose Brownlee; and sister-in-law, Nancy Wildsmith.

The funeral is Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 2:00 at Newnan Church of Christ, 2675 Highway 34 East, with his beloved son-in-law Craig Jackson officiating. Visitation will be at 1:00 preceding the service. As memorials, donations can be made to Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Efforts, P O Box 111180, Nashville, TN 37222-1180 Give ' Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc. Condolences can 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

Visitation

AUG 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Newnan Church of Christ
2675 Hwy 34 East / PO Box 71384
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

AUG 9. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Newnan Church of Christ
2675 Hwy 34 East / PO Box 71384
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Al" Kennedy*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - September 25, 2025 at 05:43 PM

JD

“ *Al was an absolute beacon in the aluminum extrusion industry and a mentor to a long list of leaders amongst us. His many years of effort in the AEC was well known. He would offer advice to anyone needing help where he could and was more than happy to get you headed in the right direction when he couldn't. He was a true team player (a little bit of a Duke fan also).*

Al had a personality that could light up a room and always had a joke that was worth passing. He had such a level temperment and could seemingly find the good in anyone or any situation. He will be dearly missed. RIP Al.

Jim Dyla - August 13, 2025 at 12:57 PM

SS

“ *I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Al's family at this difficult time. I worked with Al for several years when he was my company's sales representative for the US, and I always appreciated his good nature and his constant smile. I will miss you, my friend! With kindest regards, Sabrina from Italy*

Sabrina Sgarbi - August 07, 2025 at 12:54 PM

TE

“ *Thumb Tool & Engineering purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James "Al" Kennedy.*



Thumb Tool & Engineering - August 05, 2025 at 01:59 PM



“ *I offer my sincere condolences to Al's family, friends and colleagues. I got to know Al through my involvement in safety in the aluminum industry.*

He was so very kind in always taking my call or answering my email. He would answer my questions and teach me how an incident occurred and how it should be prevented.

I will miss his smile of all things. He could light up a room with it. I will think of him on sunny day and wonder that it must be my friend Al smiling from heaven.

Alex Lowery - August 04, 2025 at 07:36 PM

RD

“ *Al was a great guy and a pleasure to work with. He will be missed by many. Condolences to his family for their loss.*

Richard Dickson - August 04, 2025 at 07:21 PM

LB

“ Al was a great guy and a great friend that will be missed by all of his Columbia Military Academy classmates. Al and I stayed in touch through the years by phone and CMA reunions. In later years we spent phone time comparing hip replacements and ailments - always a fun call to catch up with a friend.
Lynn Bowles, CMA '58

Lynn Bowles - August 04, 2025 at 12:21 PM

AH

“ It was my privilege to serve with Al for several years on the board of Arlington Christian School. I always found him to be kind, caring, and compassionate, putting the needs and interests of the school and its students foremost in his conversations and planning. He was a Christian gentleman of the first order and will be greatly missed by all who knew him and those whom his influence has touched and blessed. Our prayers are with Sandra and all the children and grandchildren. Rest well, Al, till we meet again.

Alan Henderson - August 04, 2025 at 08:32 AM

PK

Al and I grew up together and attended West 7th Street Church of Christ and Columbia Military Academy. Al was a Christian first, a Godly man, husband, father and grandfather. What more can be said about a man. Rest in the arms of glory, Al., Pastor John Kinnard.

Pastor John Kinnard - August 05, 2025 at 08:14 AM

JJ

I wish to express my sincere condolences to Al's family. Sandra you may not remember me as I am a couple of years younger than you and Al. I have many memories of both you and Al and your families. My grandfather lived in the Southport Community and operated the old country store there. I passed your house many times and remember your dad's meat market in Columbia. I attended West 7th Church of Christ but you and Al were both a little older than me so we didn't have Sunday School together. I was glad to see that your sister is still living as I grew up on Mitchell Avenue on the other end of the street from the Wildsmiths. Al's dad remains in my mind as one of the most Godly men I've ever known. You and your family have my deepest sympathy.

James L. Bailey Jr. - August 06, 2025 at 05:39 PM

JD

154 Sunset Drive, Whitwell, TN 37397; August 7

I obviously did not know Mr. Kennedy as after college he lived in multiple locals before settling in Newnan. But I was raised down the hollow below where his grandparents lived and his father and his siblings were raised. I did know personally two of his uncles and one aunt who still lived in western Maury County, Tn.: William Basil Kennedy, Z Kennedy, and Mary Kennedy Shannon —and. was aware of his daddy, Carlton, who lived across the county from home. In fact, because a pre-teen boy wanted to "prove" he was old enough not to always have to set with his own parents, I, for a numbers of years, sat with Al's aunt, Mrs Buster Shannon almost every Sunday 'at church' at the Catheys Creek Church of Christ. I have to believe that Mr. Kennedy was the man that he was, in part, because of the family that raised him and the values that they gave to him. Bill, Z, and Mary were all good people —worthy respect and consideration. My father had had good things to say about Al's grandfather [John H. Kennedy] who had died more than a decade before I was born.

Even if I did not know Mr. Kennedy, I want to wish the best for his family and hope that they will cherish their memories of him and be led by the good values that he gave to them and. by his Christian faith.

In Christian love, James Vernon Delk.

James Delk - August 07, 2025 at 10:24 PM