



## Jay Willis Kessler

June 10, 1941 - June 10, 2016

Mr. Jay Willis Kessler, 75, of Gainesville, GA passed away Friday, June 10, 2016 at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Newnan, GA. Jay was born June 10, 1941 in Redwood Falls, MN to the late Willis Franklin Kessler & Iva Lussenhop Kessler. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Dr. Alec C. Kessler.

Jay grew up on a farm in Minnesota where his love of sports began. He graduated from the University of Minnesota where he played on the basketball team. After graduation, he began a 30 year career as an executive with IBM. Known as "Papa Jay" to not only his grandchildren, but also to the many children he came to know by attending the athletic events of his grandchildren. The positive impact he had on the young people he came to know will be a lasting legacy. He was beloved by all for his selflessness, integrity, and desire to help others.

The memorial service is Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home with Rev. Clare Whitlock officiating. The family will greet friends following the memorial service. Rather than flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions to Pillars for Promise, 1048 Ft. Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561 to establish the Papa Jay Scholarship.

Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com)

Survivors include wife, Ginger Dunlevy Kessler; son, Dr. Chad Kessler & wife Andrea; daughter-in-law, Rhea Kessler; brother, Curtis Kessler & wife Andi;

grandchildren, Christopher Kessler, Nickolas Kessler, Houston Kessler, Lilly Kessler, Walker Kessler; numerous nieces and nephews.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

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

# Previous Events

## Service

**JUN 12. 6:00 PM (ET)**

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

## Visitation

**JUN 12 (ET)**

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Jay Willis Kessler*



---

**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - June 12, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ *Ginger, I am so sorry for the tardiness of these condolences. I am so remiss when it comes to checking emails. My deepest condolences to you and the rest of the family. i know Jay will be greatly missed by many.*

*Take care.  
Mary Beth*

---

**Mary Taylor** - August 21, 2016 at 02:47 PM

GW

“ REFLECTIONS OF LIFE

by G. Mitchell Wilson

*What a life we share, here on earth  
A storied journey from time of birth  
The time just seems to past us by  
As we learn to live, love and cry  
Each step we take brings a wealth of knowledge  
Experiences not learned in books or college  
We make our way reaping life's rewards  
Sometimes with hurt.....our soul absorbs  
Sunny warmth from family and friends  
Paves the way of means and ends  
We leave out mark, our point in time  
A memory of which, is yours and mine.*

*Gregg M. Wilson  
University of Minnesota  
Football 71-74  
SKIUMAH*

---

**Gregg Wilson** - June 20, 2016 at 08:31 AM

BJ

“ Jay worked with me as a sales trainee when I was a senior rep in Minneapolis. Years later I was able to hire him as the MAPICS support center manager. He was a marvelous fit for the position and he grew it into a major asset.

*In all my career of 34 years, I've never met anyone who balanced managerial skill and being a "nice guy" as well as he. He was a real gentleman.*

*I'll remember the time he invited me to address his customers at the Football Hall of Fame in Canton...this during his time as Branch Manager of Youngstown. It was a great affair and I recall the respect he had of those customers.*

*God Bless your Soul, Jay.....and those of your family.*

*Bill Jones.....Retired Vice President, IBM*

---

**Bill Jones** - June 13, 2016 at 06:09 PM



“ 9 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - June 12, 2016 at 05:11 PM



“ 104 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



---

**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - June 12, 2016 at 10:54 AM**