



Matthew "Mattie" Ryan McKoy

October 11, 2008 - June 22, 2025

Mattie McKoy October 11, 2008 - June 22, 2025 Mattie McKoy didn't enter the world quietly - and he didn't live that way either. Born on October 11, 2008, with fire in his veins and mischief in his smile, Mattie came roaring into life and made sure the world never forgot him. He lived sixteen extraordinary years - not just surviving, but showing us all what it means to live on your own terms. He was a whirlwind of laughter, sass, stubbornness, and sparkle. On June 22, 2025, Mattie took his final breath, wrapped in love, in the arms of the parents who fought for every one of those days with him. He left the world the same way he lived in it: wild, brave, deeply loved, and completely in charge. Mattie loved with everything he had. He loved loudly. He loved honestly. He loved snacks. Blueberries were sacred. Starbucks pink drinks were non-negotiable. His cats were royalty. His corgis were chaos. His siblings were his favorite people in the world. He was never happier than when they were all in the car together - picking up snacks, blasting music, cracking jokes, and being joyfully unhinged. That was his version of heaven. And then there were the video games. For Mattie, games weren't just games. They were freedom. They were escape. They were his battlefield, his playground, and his kingdom. Whether taking down bosses or creating new worlds, his computer was power and escape. It was a choice. It was control in a body that didn't always give him much of it. And he ruled like the emperor that he was. He was wickedly funny. His side-eye was legendary. If Mattie roasted you, you knew you were loved. His humor was sharp, intentional, and always delivered with perfect timing.

Beneath the sarcasm was a soul made of steel and gold - strong enough to carry pain most adults couldn't imagine, and warm enough to make every room feel brighter. Mattie fought every battle thrown at him: spinal cord tumors, brain tumors, neurofibromatosis, mitochondrial disease, endless surgeries, and a healthcare system not built for a kid like him. He didn't just fight - he transformed. He made doctors better. He made systems bend. He left footprints on institutions that once thought they were unmovable. He was the TICU Emperor at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - not just a patient, a presence. His voice echoed through hospital halls, emails, policies, and programs. He wasn't supposed to live past infancy. He lived long enough to change the world. Mattie helped shape the palliative and medically complex care programs at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - not just as a patient, but as a force to be reckoned with. His family will forever be grateful for the fierce and tender warriors who walked beside them, especially Dr. Ann-Marie Brooks - the only doctor Mattie ever said had "all the braincells." Mattie didn't just live. He led. He loved. He lasted. He leaves behind parents who would have set the world on fire for him, two siblings who were his everything, two grandparents who adored him beyond words, aunts and uncles who showed up without fail, cousins who brought joy, the most loyal ride-or-die friends a kid could dream of, and an enormous extended family that loved him fiercely. And beyond them? A battalion of nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, advocates, and warriors who didn't just care for Mattie - they stood with him. They witnessed what it means to fight, to laugh through pain, and to demand joy even in the hardest moments. Now, Mattie is free. No pain. No tubes. No wires. No limits. He has peace. He has rest. He has freedom in full. The weight is gone. The fight is over. And he is held in something greater than all of us. But Mattie's story doesn't end here. It lives on - in the laws that will change because of him, in the kids who will get better care because of him, and in every person who chooses to live a little louder, fight a little harder, or love a little wilder in his honor - with a splash of green. Because Mattie McKoy wasn't just a kid. He was a revolution in human form. He was love. He was power. He

was ours. And legends never die. A celebration of Mattie's life will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, in Newnan, Georgia. Visitation will begin at 3:00 p.m., with the service to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Rev. Don Daly officiating. Mattie's family kindly requests that guests not wear all black. Mattie's favorite color was green. Please dress in a way that shows joy and life - just like he did.

In lieu of flowers, Mattie's family asks that donations be made to the UAB Neurofibromatosis Program Research Fund so that one day no other child will experience what Mattie went through. Please contact Andrea Martin at (205) 757-8403 for more information on supporting the UAB NF Research Program. Online donations for NF1 research can be made here: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1881/giving19/interior.aspx?sid=1881&gid=3&pgid=481&cid=1223&bledit=1&dids=4358.4142.4847.4674.4597.4321.4281.4598.4283.5139>.

Condolences may also 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

JUL 19. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

JUL 19. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Matthew "Mattie" Ryan McKoy*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - July 20, 2025 at 03:51 PM

KR

“ *God blessed my life with Mattie several years ago at Wednesday nite Unlimited ministry at Crossroads church. Mattie would come into the room, curl up in a carpet like a moth in a cocoon. As I taught the Bible lesson, I prayed , "Lord what can I do to share you with this unique child?" Mattie was in his own space. Then came Review time. Like the metamorphosis of the butterfly, Mattie unrolled the carpet that had protected him and started participating in small group. He was listening & could not wait to share his thoughts. My heart nearly burst as he lead the group in discussion. God definitely had a plan for Mattie's life in touching as many as he could in his short time here. He will be Remembered! Love Ms. Kathy.*

Kathy Jones Ragsdale - July 21, 2025 at 08:54 PM

MG

“ *Mattie McKoy was a very special young man who was my grandson's very best friend. He was full of love and caring. He is no longer in pain and is now at rest in God's arms. I send Prayers and peace to his family.*


Mary Grantham - July 21, 2025 at 01:39 PM

SK

“Wow! What a testimony about Mattie in the Times Herald obituary, and what an amazing life he lived, touching so many lives. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Mattie but it was a honor to read about him today.

Scott Kuhne - July 19, 2025 at 03:02 PM

RD

“Thinking of you and sending love. A remarkable young man. What is remembered, lives. And Mattie is imprinted in the hearts and minds of so many  thank you for sharing him and the impact he made in this world.

Renee Deroko - July 19, 2025 at 12:52 PM

JT

“The Tuttle's are sending much love to the McKoy's in their time of need. Mattie was a true warrior in his life and will continue to be in his legacy especially with the change he helped to create in the medical community to help others. God Bless.

Jason Tuttle - July 03, 2025 at 09:21 AM

JT

“Jason T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew "Mattie" Ryan McKoy.

Jason T. - July 03, 2025 at 09:16 AM




“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew "Mattie" Ryan McKoy.*



June 28, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“  *Mattie, such a spunky, little guy when we met him. His smile and personality just made you happy every time you saw him. Prayers for his wonderful family.*



James & Angela Cambas/ Ichiban Karate - June 26, 2025 at 11:59 AM



Mattie will be missed. He will forever be one of my most memorable clients. His fire and feistiness are unforgettable. My sincere condolences to the beautiful McKoy family. May God give you all peace.

Mrs. Lis - June 26, 2025 at 12:07 PM



I taught Mattie in Sunday School at PTCUMC when he was a little thing, 4 or 5 years old maybe. He was a spunky, vibrant little tyke. Always on the go, had a hard time sitting still which is common for anyone that age. Peach for Mattie and peace for his grieving family. May he RIP.

June Miller

June Miller - June 26, 2025 at 01:35 PM

LE

Rest in Peace Beautiful Mattie!! I know that you are flying high and now you are free of all your illnesses. You have bravely fought a battle so great, that many of us can't even image about it. Yet you did it, with grace, love and many times, with humor. Although, my heart is sad, I will not forget you!! I can't stop smiling at your personality and your bravery!! You are an inspiration to so many. You will continue to be in the hearts of so many of us!! Our family is sending love and prayers to your family. You made a beautiful mark in this world, Mattie!! <3

Leigh-Catarina - June 26, 2025 at 10:52 PM

MH

My sincere condolences to the McKoy family.

Marilyn Hayes - June 27, 2025 at 09:18 AM