

James Richard McKenna

March 13, 1931 - November 23, 2023

Rye - James Richard McKenna of Rye, NH, formally Littleton, MA went on his final foliage tour and passed away in his sleep on November 23, 2023; he was 92 years old.

Born on March 13, 1931, in Concord, MA, Jim was the son of the late Joseph H. McKenna and Gertrude F. (Mara) McKenna. Jim was raised and educated in Concord, MA where he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. He then attended St. Bonaventure University and St. Michael's College on a full football scholarship. Later, Jim attended graduate school at UMass Amherst and Fitchburg State College and received his master's in health and physical education. Jim married Martha Fougstedt on November 24, 1956. He joined the Army and worked in the Intelligence Division and was stationed in Germany for three years. Jim and Martha made their home in Littleton, MA, where they raised eight children. After retirement, Jim and Martha resided in Rye, NH and Clearwater, FL.

During high school, Jim contracted polio and had to relearn how to walk, this established his fighting spirit which he carried with him throughout his life.

Jim started his teaching and coaching careers at North Middlesex Regional High School and Ayer High School, but is best remembered for being the Athletic Director, physical education teacher, and coach at Littleton High

School. He began teaching in Littleton in 1964 and soon established Littleton's first football team. Jim was immensely proud to be inducted into the Massachusetts Coaches Hall of Fame and to Concord High School's Athletic Hall of Fame. Jim retired in 1988 from Littleton and went on to work with troubled youths.

He was predeceased by his loving and patient wife, Martha, to whom he was married for 61 years, Jim leaves his eight children, Shawn and his significant other, Shirley Ingram, of Seabrook, NH, Dennis and Cathy (Popp) of Stamford, NY, Martha and Andy Pierce of Ayer, MA, Theresa and Richard McGrath of Lunenburg MA, Timothy of Ayer, MA, Nora and Lenny Leonardo of Groton, MA, Sheila and Eric Kish of Littleton, MA, and Julia and Pete Dunn of Littleton, MA. His grandchildren: Derek, Daniel, Amy, Britney, Siobhan, Sam, Dennis, Rachele, Renee, Devin, David, Stephen, Lowell, Angela, Erin, Jamie, Paul, Heather, Luke, Garrett, Jason, and Kylie, and 14 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his siblings Joe McKenna, Gertrude (Sis) McKenna, Leo McKenna, Margaret Ann Hawksworth, and Maureen Forrester.

The family would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Dawn, Deb, and Claudette from Extended Family LLC in Portsmouth. The love and care you showed Jim is more than we could have asked for and our gratitude is immeasurable.

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Jim for a period of visitation on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Remick and Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH 03842. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Theresa Church, 820 Central Road, Rye Beach, NH, 03871. Burial with Military Honors will be held at Rye Central Cemetery immediately following the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

Tunnel to Towers Foundation by clicking here (<https://t2t.org/>)

or

March of Dimes by clicking here (https://www.marchofdimes.org/donate-now?form=donatenow&srcCode=GAQTUEDA2311CEGOOGBPAMR&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=2023givingtuesday&utm_content=brand&DonationTrackingParam1=digital_paid&DonationTrackingParam2=2023givingtuesday_google&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA04arBhAkEiwAuNOsImYhvajTNMqIWHtGQqjQpNS7tNqrmwx8JH0o2jYU_JLNj8tvZikwxhoCzwoQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 3. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Funeral Mass

DEC 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Theresa Church
815 Central Rd
(603) 964-6440
Rye Beach, NH 03871

Interment with Military Honors

DEC 4. 12:30 PM (ET)

Central Cemetery
20 Central Road
Rye, NH

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Julia I am sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. He will forever be with you. My condolences to you and your family.

Becky McKie

Becky McKie - December 05, 2023 at 04:29 PM

DM

“ I am so glad to have had the opportunity to know Jim and Martha in my few years in the McKenna family. May they rest in eternal peace with my Joe and those who passed before them. The many pictures reflect on a life well lived. ❤️🙏🙏🙏❤️. Dorothy McKenna

Dorothy McKenna - December 03, 2023 at 03:55 PM

PC

“ To the McKenna Family from Pat and Roger Chagnon. We were so very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Jimmy. Both he and Martha were wonderful friends of ours for many years in Clearwater and on our summer trips to Mass and New Hampshire where lobster dinners too numerous to count were savored at the beach house over the years. We're eternally grateful for their boundless generosity in all things, especially allowing us to use the Mission Hills condo whenever we visited Clearwater after moving to Citrus Hills. We will always treasure their memory and the wonderful times we shared together.

Pat and Roger Chagnon - December 02, 2023 at 12:09 AM



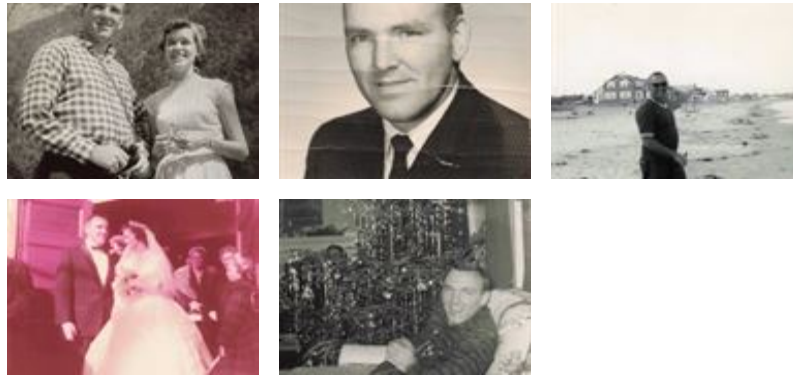
“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.



December 01, 2023 at 11:35 AM



“ 85 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - December 01, 2023 at 08:25 AM



“ *The Stanford Family* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of James Richard McKenna.



The Stanford Family - November 30, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard McKenna.

November 30, 2023 at 11:02 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



November 30, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *From UKG Sales and your Sales Ops Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard McKenna.*

From UKG Sales and your Sales Ops Family - November 30, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



November 29, 2023 at 06:34 PM

DG

“ My deepest sympathies to all of James McKenna's family.

It was a privilege to spend time with Jim over the last four years. We had a lot of good times: sitting on the stone wall at the beach watching the surfers, long walks, rides along the ocean, feeding and watching the birds, Red Sox and Patriots games and lots of Beach Plum ice cream in the summer! But most of all I remember Jim's love of music. We sang a lot of songs, from old time favorites to Christmas carols and some hymns. I especially liked when he sang "When Irish Eyes are Smiling."

Jim was a very social person. He was friendly to everyone he met. He never lost his sense of humor and always bestowed a big smile to everyone. I will miss Jim like many others who knew him, but I have many warm memories of our times together.

I hope as you all grieve your loss your warm memories will also fill your hearts. Especially memories of your time with him at his beloved "Beach House."

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

~Deb

DEBORAH GRIFFIN - November 29, 2023 at 01:37 PM

JD

“ Julia D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard McKenna.

Julia D. - November 29, 2023 at 12:44 PM

JD

“ *Julia D. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



Julia D. - November 29, 2023 at 12:44 PM

HC

“ *Mr. McKenna was my PE teacher at LHS from '65-'69. He put us guys through and wide range of exercises and sports activities, always encouraging us to do our best. And I really admired how well he coached our football team to championships. Rest in peace, sir.*

Hal Coyle - November 29, 2023 at 12:10 PM

HC

**...a wide range of...*

Hal Coyle - November 29, 2023 at 12:12 PM

BM

“ *Jim and I attended UMASS Amherst graduate school in 1972-73. We became quick friends and enjoyed each other's company. While I worked at the NE Patriots training camp in Amherst I would invite Jim to dinner quite often and he loved being around the Patriot players. Jim was first class all the way and a true gentleman. Brian Martin, Lowell, MA*

brian Martin - November 29, 2023 at 09:19 AM

SE

“ *Sheila and Eric purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



Sheila and Eric - November 29, 2023 at 06:58 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



November 28, 2023 at 05:12 PM

KF

“ *Ken Forrester purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



Ken Forrester - November 27, 2023 at 09:53 AM

SS

“ *Steven Sawyer lit a candle in memory of James Richard McKenna*



Steven Sawyer - November 26, 2023 at 08:35 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



November 26, 2023 at 06:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard McKenna.*



November 26, 2023 at 05:15 PM



“ *Sending our deepest condolences to you all. Your Dad gave so much to the kids in our town! He was someone everyone respected and looked up to. May he rest in peace!*

Gina & Brad Miller - November 26, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“ *My sympathy to all of you and the many that loved and looked up to your Dad. He was a pillar in our community and a man of great legacy. I am deeply sorry for your profound loss*

Deb Karr-Francis - November 26, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ *I am sorry for the loss! He was a great man and an awesome roll model.*

Scott Dion - November 25, 2023 at 10:36 PM

RS

Jim was one of my favorite teachers and had him as a coach for 2 years. Sorry for the McKenna family loss he was an inspiration

Richard Sherry - November 26, 2023 at 12:48 PM

BH

We have very fond memories of living next to Jim and Martha on Perkins Rd., they were such kind neighbors. Sending warm thoughts to you all. May the road rise up to meet him.

*Tom Sheridan
Bridget Hughes*

Bridget M Hughes - November 27, 2023 at 07:00 PM

SW

I was on Coach McKenna's first football team at Littleton High School. He made a lasting impression on me as he did on so many other players he coached. We all heard his voice in his the back of our heads and felt the spittle in our faces when he wanted to make a point. He was hard, he was fair, he was intense and he was the best coach I ever had regardless the sport I played. I admired the life he led and I am honored to have been a small part of his life.

My sincere condolences to his family and rest in peace Coach.

Steve Wright

steve wright - December 02, 2023 at 09:41 PM

BT

Coach McKenna was a very big influence in my life. He was a great coach and teacher. He brought Littleton High School its first football team, which I was fortunate enough to play on. He was also my baseball coach. He taught us many things such as honesty, accountability, dedication, discipline and hard work, which is why we were so successful. He was tough, strict and intense but fair. I was fortunate enough to see him at his home in Rye a couple of years ago. He will be sorely missed!

*My sincere condolences to the family.
Rest in peace coach McKenna.*

*Brian Troupe
LHS 68*

Brian B Troupe - December 11, 2023 at 11:38 AM