



James Michael McNiel

May 14, 1953 - November 25, 2018

James Michael McNiel, 65, was born May 14, 1953 in Pawhuska, OK to Calvin Coolidge and Elda June (Morrell) McNiel and passed away peacefully Sunday, November 25, 2018 at his home in Muskogee.

James or “Mike” as he was known, spent his younger years moving from coast to coast with his parents and two brothers as they were a military family. The McNiel family later settled in Muskogee where Mike excelled in sports. He achieved both scholastic and sports honors.

After graduation, he attended college at Bacone where he continued his baseball career. At the height of his college career, Mike was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds Baseball Organization. He also received an associate degree at Bacone.

After his baseball career ended, Mike returned to Muskogee where he became a construction contractor. He was known by everybody as a handyman and could fix anything. Mike married Sarah Ann and his son, Bronson was born out of this union. He continued in life as a handyman and was a caretaker to all.

He was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church in Muskogee.

Mike was preceded in death by his father; Calvin McNiel; grandparents; four uncles and two aunts.

Those left to cherish Mike’s memory are his mother; Elda June McNiel of Muskogee; son, Bronson McNiel and his wife Erica of Tahlequah; grandchildren, Aiden Blackwood, Grayson McNiel and Brentley McNiel all of

Tahlequah; brothers, Gene McNiel and wife Monte, Sheldon McNiel and wife Jamie; many nieces, nephews and many friends.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, November 28, 2018 with family receiving friends from 5PM-7PM at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson.

A celebration of Mike's life will be 1:00PM Thursday, November 29, 2018 at Trinity Freewill Baptist Church in Muskogee with Pastor Woody Wilson officiating. Committal prayers and interment will follow at Greenhill Cemetery with Sheldon McNiel, Bronson McNiel, Sam McNiel, Ryan Tiger, Joshua McNiel and Brian Budniewski serving as casket bearers.

The family of James Michael McNiel has entrusted his service and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555 Online condolences may be left at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N York
Muskogee, OK 74434

Previous Events

Family Visitation

NOV 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home (Fort Gibson)
1224 E Poplar St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2555

Celebration of Life

NOV 29. 1:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church
515 South 24th
Muskogee, OK 74402

Tribute Wall



“ *James Michael McNiel*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *Janet Keohane purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of James Michael
McNiel.*



Janet Keohane - November 28, 2018 at 06:00 PM



“ *Janet Keohane lit a candle in memory of
James Michael McNiel*



Janet Keohane - November 28, 2018 at 05:37 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the
family of James Michael McNiel.*



November 28, 2018 at 12:56 PM

JC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was a true friend who would do anything for anyone. Mike was what I would consider as a renaissance man as he could do anything that he set his mind on. My hearts and prayers are with the McNiel family. Sincerely, Jack (David) Clift.

Jack (David) Clift - November 28, 2018 at 11:40 AM

LJ

“ I met Mike years ago through my in-laws and had the chance to work alongside him on several projects as he helped us with things though the years. Mike's attention to detail and creativity were unmatched! We had some crazy ideas and he always helped us pull them off...and always with a song in his heart - humming the whole time! I was blessed to know Mike, he will be missed. Lauren Jenkins

Lauren Jenkins - November 28, 2018 at 09:13 AM

SH

“ It was an honor to have known Mike, he was a friend to everyone. Always had a kind Hello when we saw him..Going to be missed..Love your friends Susan & Ron Hogle

Susan & Ronald Hogle - November 27, 2018 at 11:48 PM

FH

“ I knew Mike in high school and later played softball in city league with him after his stint with the pros. What an arm! And what a great guy! I'm so sorry for your loss.

Fred Haynes - November 27, 2018 at 07:08 PM