



Mark William McKinney

March 12, 1954 - January 1, 2025

Mark William McKinney, 70, the inventor, master storyteller, hustler, and dreamer extraordinaire, was born on March 12, 1954, in Poteau, OK to William E and Patsy McKinney, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his beloved daughters, granddaughters, son, admired ex-wives and friends he considered family. While we mourn the loss of a truly remarkable man, we also celebrate a life lived to its fullest, one filled with generosity, laughter, and boundless love.

Mark led an extraordinary life, fueled by his insatiable curiosity, and fearless pursuit of dreams, a true visionary. He was preceded in death by his beautiful granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth Hiseley; his loving parents, William E. and Patsy McKinney; his beloved father-in-law, Don Swagerty; and his adored brother, Michael Fredrick. He was a man with a plan, always ready to tackle the next big idea with a twinkle in his eye and a determination that could move mountains. Blessed with intelligence beyond measure and the gift of gab, Mark was a natural-born charmer—the kind of man who could sell ketchup to a lady in white gloves, as many would say.

Mark's heart was as big as his imagination. He never met a stranger, building friendships with people from all walks of life and forming connections that transcended boundaries. Mark's career was as dynamic and colorful as the man himself. He began in marketing, skillfully packaging and promoting products into major retailers like Walmart, ventured into the world of hand-rolled cigars, and even had a stint selling melodious wind chimes in Austin,

Texas. Ever the adventurer, he later moved to China, where he fearlessly chased new business dreams and built connections across the globe. In his later years, Mark discovered a deep passion for helping others through medicinal marijuana, proudly embracing his role as a botanist with a green thumb and an even greener heart.

Mark's hobbies were just as vibrant as his career. A devoted collector, seller, and trader of guns, he relished the thrill of the hunt—both in the great outdoors and for the perfect addition to his collection. He was a connoisseur of fine dining, a globetrotter with an insatiable wanderlust, and a lover of music that could soothe the soul or spark a dance. A true cigar aficionado, Mark delighted in savoring the finest cigars, often turning each puff into a celebration of life.

For many years, Mark dedicated himself to helping others find their path to sobriety through AA, offering guidance, compassion, and hope to fellow addicts and alcoholics. His generosity knew no bounds, and his willingness to help the next person in need left an indelible mark on countless lives.

Most importantly, Mark's heart lay with his family. He moved back to Oklahoma in 2019, cherishing the chance to spend quality time with his daughters, son, and grandchildren. Those last years were filled with treasured memories, laughter, and love, cementing his legacy as a father and grandfather who always made sure his family knew how proud he was of them. He was a true believer in God and the miracles of Jesus, living his life with faith, gratitude, and an unwavering belief in the goodness of others.

Mark was also a man of great adventure, well-traveled, and eager to experience all the world had to offer. His extraordinary life was a tapestry of vibrant stories, unforgettable moments, and dreams chased with relentless passion. Whether he was exploring new horizons, sharing a laugh with friends, or lending a helping hand, those who crossed paths with Mark will never forget his presence in their lives.

He is survived by his beloved daughter Jessica Scott and her husband Gary R. Scott Jr., her stepmom Sandy McKinney, whom he adored for her

unwavering love and support; daughter Jessica Harris, his newest bundle of joy and her husband Jason Harris; daughter Amber McKinney and her devoted partner Keegan Bumgarner; daughter Chloe McKinney and their stepmom Jennifer Lightle-Gaddy, who he deeply cherished for her kindness and care; and his son, Rob McKinney. His cherished grandchildren include Kobe Echols, William Hiseley, Kyndall McKinney, Payton Ritter, Brodie Couse, Louisa Bumgarner, Lilyan Harris, Emma McKinney, Bevie Bumgarner, Ronny Bumgarner, and Cash E. McKinney. He is also survived by dear family friend Scott Harlow, as well as many other relatives and cherished friends. Mark's legacy is one of love, laughter, and unyielding faith—a reminder to dream big, live fully, and never lose sight of the miracles that surround us. He leaves us with an enduring message: chase your dreams with fearless determination and unwavering faith in God, trusting in His plan and the beauty of life's journey. Mark's family, especially his daughters, son, and grandchildren, never doubted his love, support, and pride in their strength, empathy, and remarkable character.

A celebration of Mark's incredible life will be held on Saturday, January 11th, 1pm at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson, OK. All who knew and loved Mark are invited to join us in honoring his memory, sharing stories, and celebrating the adventurous, generous, and extraordinary man who touched so many lives. The family encourages you to send flowers if you'd like to celebrate Mark's life with beauty and color. If unable to send flowers, consider extending a helping hand to someone in need or taking a moment to appreciate the beauty of life, just as Mark would want all of us to—with laughter in our hearts, dreams in our sights, and faith guiding our steps. The family of Mark William McKinney has entrusted his cremation and services to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555

Online condolences may be left for the McKinney family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home Chapel
1224 E Poplar
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Amber M. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mark William McKinney.



Amber M. - January 10, 2025 at 06:57 PM

JR

“ James R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark William McKinney.

James R. - January 10, 2025 at 04:59 PM

BS

“ Blaggs and Sinclairs purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mark William McKinney.



Blaggs and Sinclairs - January 10, 2025 at 03:21 PM

FM

“ Fran Miller lit a candle in memory of Mark McKinney



Fran Miller - January 05, 2025 at 08:31 AM

DK

“ I never got to meet Mark, but through my best friend Jess, I feel like I got to know a piece of him. I'll never forget all the late-night calls when she was searching for her family... the excitement, the nerves, the “what ifs.” She was so scared but so hopeful, and when she found him, everything changed. From their first phone call, it was clear how special their connection was. And when they met in person? I'll never forget her telling me that he looked at her and said, “It was love at first sight.” That one had me tearing up for sure.



Mark and the rest of the family made her feel like she'd been part of their lives forever. I still think about the pictures she shared from the night she had everyone over for dinner at her house. You could just see the love and happiness in all their faces. Mark looked SO happy and so proud.. all of his girls under one roof having a great time together!

She was there for him a lot towards the end and I know how much that means to her (especially now). She loved him to pieces, and he gave her something she'd been waiting and searching for her whole life. Even though their time together was extremely too short, it was filled with so much love, and I'm so grateful she got to have those moments with him. It's clear he left that same legacy behind with everyone who knew him. My heart goes out to Jessica, Chloe, Amber, and Jess and the whole family as they celebrate (and grieve) such an incredible man. ❤️

Deanna Kelbaugh - January 03, 2025 at 07:35 PM

JS

Thank you for giving me the gift of hearing this story from someone who loved my sister before I had the chance to know and love her myself. ❤️ Jess (Sr.)

Jess Scott - January 03, 2025 at 11:50 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark William McKinney.*



January 03, 2025 at 06:22 PM