

Frank Edward McKenney

April 21, 1928 - April 1, 2026

Frank Edward McKenney, age 97, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2026, just weeks before his 98th birthday. He was born on April 21, 1928, in El Dorado, Arkansas, and spent much of his life living and working in Searcy, Arkansas since 1952.

Frank was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and proud veteran. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anita McKenney, with whom he shared many cherished years.

He is survived by his two children, Travis McKenney and Sharon Hawk (Ken), who carry forward his legacy of strength, integrity, and dedication to family. He was a loving grandfather to three grandchildren: Paige Hawk Pace (Phillip), Kyly Hawk, and John Hawk (Zack), and one great grandchild Lily Pace. He has numerous cousins and extended family. He loved all of his family and friends profoundly.

Frank served his country honorably as a member of the United States Army and a member of the Corp at Texas A & M where he played on the snare line, a tradition continued by his son and grandson. Following his military service, he finished his engineering degree at Louisiana Tech and received his Professional Engineering designation. Frank then built a successful career as an electrical engineer working for Arkansas Power and Light in the years

before and after his work-related injury when he was 24. When he had his arm amputated, he recovered at the home of his Aunt Mildred Finkbeiner in Perryville where he became especially close with his cousin Albertine Potter and they have enjoyed many visits and trips to see each other in the last decade. After AP & L, he opened his first business in May of 1956 and was partners with TR Garner in Garner McKenney Ace Hardware on the square in Searcy. When they outgrew the building, he started McKenney Supply, which is still running with the leadership of Kent and Marie Jones who had worked for Frank since he was a teenager and is now the owner and close family friend. While running both Thermal Air and McKenney Supply, he worked with Lightle Beebe Rainey Bell as a consultant on unusual lawsuits and used his engineering skills to discover the cause of many fires, accidental deaths and more. Frank served his community as an active member of the Lion's Club in the 1960's, 70's and 80's. He was a long-time member of the Westside Church of Christ, previously having raised his children at the Downtown Church of Christ. Later he served on State Boards under Governor Mike Beebe, who he greatly admired. After retirement, he worked for the City of Searcy as the Code Officer full-time into his 80's and kept his hand in all things Searcy. He continued later as a consultant for Hoffman Architectural with his close friends Barry and Lisa Hoffman. Frank received many awards and accolades throughout his life and most recently was the recognition by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors for his many years of service to the Arkansas Chapter in 2022. He was respected for his hard work, sharp mind, and commitment to excellence in all he did.

The family would like to thank his caregivers Tina Garrison and Cait O'Dell who became family and also thank Jamie Goslin who was always a phone call away and whom he considered a second daughter and his personal medical expert.

Frank will be remembered for his steady presence, his deep love for his

family, and the values he instilled in those around him. His life was one of purpose, service, and quiet strength.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held on Monday April 6th from 6-8 pm at Powell Funeral Home in Searcy and the Memorial Service will be Tuesday April 7th at 2 pm at the Westside Church of Christ also in Searcy.

Interment will be private and at a later time.

Memorial services will be livestreamed at www.powellfuneralhome.net. If you experience a delay or difficulty viewing the livestream, please check back an hour after services begin.

The family requests no flowers at Frank's preference and asks that memorials go to one of the following: Harding University Latham Scholarship Fund, St. Jude's Children's hospital Memphis, AR Children's Hospital LR or Louisiana Tech University class of 1950 Engineering Scholarship Fund in his name.

Arrangements are entrusted with Powell Funeral Home of Searcy.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)

2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy

Searcy, AR 72143

(501) 268-7220

searcy@powellfuneralhome.net

<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Memorial Service

APR 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

West Side Church of Christ

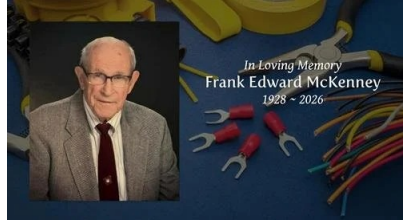
709 West Arch

Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Frank Edward McKenney



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 10 at 11:09 AM



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Frank Edward McKenney



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 07 at 01:54 PM

TG

“ Precious moments with the smartest man I've ever had the honor of knowing! Years ago I fell in love with him and Anita his wife. I began as just a house keeper but once she realized I didn't have any issues doing things her way. We became very close. My pleasure was keeping people happy and I did my best to do so, so much that we adopted each other and after Anita passed away Frank asked me to help keep him from going into assisted living. Of coarse I said I will do my best and His family , dear friends and loving caregivers did exactly that!! He will forever be a treasure in my heart a true Blessing to all who knew him. God Bless his amazing family will love them forever as well. Love and God Bless , Tina and Family

Tina Garrison - April 06 at 06:53 PM

LB

“ Mr Frank I also wanted to thank you for service in the military for keeping America and us our freedom and us faith I know you are with God and you are well now Happy Birthday in Heaven John O Jr and Lynda Bailey Searcy



Lynda Bailey - April 05 at 11:43 AM

LB

“ We are so sorry for your loss He was a great man and a friend to everyone we are praying for the family and friend I bet he knew everyone in Searcy May God bless you when I was a little girl I remember coming to his store he had presents for all of us kids I want to say our class went but I am not sure about that The Christmas tree was sitting in the window John O Jr and Lynda Bailey Searcy



Lynda Bailey - April 05 at 11:27 AM

JH

“ *Mr. Frank and Ms Anita were always seeming like family Our Thoughts and prayer will be with the family. Always Johnny & Mary Hodges Bald Knob*

Johnny & Mary Hodges - April 04 at 10:52 AM