



Gregory Barrington McKnight

January 20, 2021

Gregory Barrington McKnight, loving husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather and dear friend passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at the age of 72.

Gregory Barrington McKnight was born on May 2, 1948 to parents, Thomas and Pauline McKnight. He grew up as the eldest of three kids with his younger siblings Thurman and Lora McKnight. Greg was an army veteran, serving in the Vietnam War for just under 3 years. In 1969, while serving with the army, Greg welcomed his son Gregory Barrington McKnight, II from a previous union. Greg met and married Penny Cooper McKnight on June 16, 1973.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Greg graduated with a Bachelor in Science from the University of Colorado Denver. His early career was spent working with the United Bank of Denver as well as in technology with Xerox and other companies. In 1979 Greg and Penny welcomed their son, Brandon Cooper McKnight.

Greg was a doting grandfather to his three grandchildren, Remington, Elizabeth and Simon McKnight. Greg, who is often described as “larger than life,” enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of passions and interests. Some of his hobbies included a love of skiing, reading, acting, board games and politics. Greg founded a company, Wanser Works, with aspirations of selling his favorite rum and tequila to help keep the party going. Later in life Greg learned to play bridge and joined a club called the Bridge Buddies. They enjoyed weekly bridge games and a lot of laughter.

After the last of his grandchildren were born, Greg and Penny moved to New Orleans to be close to family and friends. Greg taught “What Makes New Orleans Unique” at the People Program which was the highlight of his life living in the city that he loved dearly. While in New Orleans Greg also became a lector and joined the choir of Transfiguration Catholic Church. He was a member of the Titans of Greater New Orleans. Greg lived an extravagant lifestyle full of fine dining and exotic wines. He loved a good party, and was often the center of the fun.

Greg was preceded in death by his mother and father, Thomas and Pauline McKnight. He is survived by his wife Penny; their son, Brandon Cooper, his wife Megan and their children Elizabeth and Simon. He also leaves his son Gregory Barrington and his grandson Remington. Greg leaves behind his brother (Thurman), sister (Lora), and their children (Dionne and London), his sister-in-law (Gaynell), and her children (Leslie and David), as well as many aunts and cousins from Parsons, Kansas, and his New Orleans family who he lovingly referred to as “outlaws.”

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at Transfiguration Catholic Church, 5621 Elysian Fields Ave, New Orleans, LA 70122 on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:00 am. Visitation to be held from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. As mandated by the State of Louisiana due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance is limited. Everyone is required to adhere to all restrictions. You must wear a face mask at all times and practice social distancing. Interment to follow, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

In lieu of flowers, Greg requested that donations be made to the People Program, a non-profit cause that he believed in deeply.

Greg is a beloved member of the family, and will be dearly missed. In the words of Greg's favorite toast. “To us, and to those of them like us, damn few!”

Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook.

Comments



“ I just want to say Hi Unc! I will never say goodbye completely as I know you will always be with me! So...Hi again! How u doin'? I know you feel all of our love, so ENJOY! I'm still celebrating ALL you've been to me, our family, friends, and those fortunate enough to have any form of an experience or interaction with you! As my celebration of your life continues, I will continue to formulate in my head and heart everything you are into words to share here in your tribute! Until then, you know I have to say THANK YOU! Luv u Unc!

David Lawrence - February 02 at 01:39 PM



“ Just found out at church this morning...we will miss seeing the two of you sitting together across the aisle from us at Mass and hearing his wonderful voice singing in the choir or proclaiming God's word! You are in our hearts and prayers!
Bud and Debbie Waldmann

Deborah and Bud Waldmann - January 31 at 04:11 PM



“ Penny , our sincere condolences and prayers to you and your family during this most difficult time.

Greg and Roseanna Pappion

Roseanna Pappion - January 31 at 02:02 PM



“ To Penny and the rest of Greg's family, I am so sorry for your loss. I've known Greg for the last six year or so, and I, like everyone else who encountered him, was charmed by his warmth, his erudition, and his sincere friendship. I know this is a great loss for you all. Please accept my sincerest condolences.

Anthony Barthelemy

Anthony Barthelemy - January 29 at 05:14 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. Greg was such a joy to work with and a caring friend.

Winoma Larkins



Winoma Larkins - January 29 at 04:53 PM



“ DIONE lit a candle in memory of Gregory Barrington McKnight



DIONE - January 29 at 01:56 PM



“ Rest in heaven my dear friend. Sending prayers for comfort to your family.

Marion Combs

Marion Combs - January 29 at 01:04 PM



“ Condolences to the family. You will be greatly missed. Your cousin Bea Hymon.



Bea Hymon - January 29 at 11:25 AM



“ Praying that God's caring, comforting presence will surround you during this time. May He Comfort You Today.

White Owl, Desi DeLarge and Family

Alton and DeLarge, Jr. - January 29 at 10:31 AM



“ Connie Hartwell lit a candle in memory of Gregory Barrington McKnight



Connie Hartwell - January 28 at 10:25 PM



“ Sorry to hear about your lost. I remember him from Parsons Kansas living across the street when we were young. Phyllis and Barbara Martin

Phyllis Martin - January 28 at 08:40 PM



“ Angela McKnight lit a candle in memory of Gregory Barrington McKnight



angela McKnight - January 28 at 06:43 PM



“ So sad to hear. Will treasure the memories of so long ago. Take care and am here if ever needed. Sending lots of love and big hugs to all. Norma and Alex Nash

Norma Nash - January 28 at 12:11 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gregory Barrinton McKnight.



January 28 at 10:56 AM



“ I am heart broken over Greg's passing. I met him at the Bridge Center & loved getting to know him & playing bridge with him. He was so much fun to be around and really good at bridge. He will be sorely missed. My love & deepest condolences to his family.

Lynn Hoffman (Metairie)

Lynn Hoffman - January 28 at 01:55 AM



“ Love, Anne Williams & the Kids purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Gregory Barrinton McKnight.



Love, Anne Williams & the Kids - January 27 at 10:16 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. We pray you find comfort in the Lord during this time of bereavement. God bless. The Wooten Family

The Wootens - January 27 at 08:50 PM



“ So sad to hear and my heart goes out to all of you. Will treasure the memories of so long ago. Take care and am here if ever needed. lots of love and big hugs to all
Norma and Alex Nash



Norma Nash - January 27 at 07:10 PM



“ Greg was one of those smiling faces I always looked forward to seeing at the Louisiana Bridge Center. He and his regular partner Wayne kept us all entertained by their gentlemanly, jovial nature and talk about whatever feast they would be preparing for family and friends over the weekend. May he Rest In Peace. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time. You've lost a good man.

Debbie Stoddard Tabb

Debbie Tabb - January 27 at 07:05 PM



“ Arthel McDaniel Jr. and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gregory Barrinton McKnight.



Arthel McDaniel Jr. and Family - January 27 at 01:00 PM



“ Greg was instrumental in naming a close group of friends in Denver called the Sophisticated Gents, consisting of Maurice Scott, Russell Richardson, John Griffin, Mack Holland and Greg. The bonding of this group is life long. Greg will be missed but never forgotten

Mack Holland - January 27 at 11:38 AM



“ While I didn't know Greg well, I looked forward to visiting with him and Penny at our spot at John Wilson's table at the Mardi Gras Bunch Dance. Always a smile, always charming, and a great conversationalist. Sending lots of love and strength to Penny and the to rest of the family, Laury Bourgeois

Laury Bourgeois - January 27 at 04:30 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gregory Barrinton McKnight.



January 26 at 04:01 PM