

Grover McKenzie, Jr.

Grover McKenzie, Jr. has had a positive impact on the lives of people around the world with his forever positive attitude, wisdom, mental strength, discipline, and love. He made a difference.

Grover McKenzie Jr., a former resident of St. Matthews, South Carolina and Chester, Pennsylvania and founding member of the Grover and Sara McKenzie Family Foundation, Inc., passed away on Monday, November 13, 2023 at the age of 95.



Grover was born in Calhoun County, South Carolina on November 22, 1927. He was the son of the late Grover Lee McKenzie and Willa Octavia (Green) McKenzie. He was predeceased by all of his siblings who were James McKenzie, Willisteen McKenzie, Sadie (McKenzie) Parson, and Zeddie (McKenzie) Capel.

Upon graduating from high school, Grover joined the U.S. Army, spending most of his 2-year term of service in the Philippines, after World War II. Post military, he attended the Benjamin Franklin Business School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He earned an associate degree in business administration.

Grover was happily married to the late Sara (Gibbs) McKenzie for 59 years. They had seven children, all born in Chester, Pennsylvania. They had 2 daughters, Iris (McKenzie) Foreman and Renee (McKenzie) Hayward. They had 5 sons, Gerald McKenzie, Grover McKenzie III, Darryl McKenzie, Wayne McKenzie (deceased) and Andre McKenzie (deceased).

Grover is survived by daughters-in-law Sheree McKenzie (Gerald), Renee Denise McKenzie (Grover III), Roberta McKenzie (Andre) and Melony McKenzie (Darryl) and one son-in-law, Anthony Foreman (Iris). Son-in-law Issac Hayward (Renee) is deceased.

Grover is also survived by sisters-in-law Annie (Bowie) Jones, Viola Bowie, Gail Bowie, and brother-in-law Charles Tyrone Bowie.

Grover had 15 grandchildren: Idris Hayward (spouse-Deborah), Tunisia Hayward, Sulubika Hayward (deceased), Enver Hayward, Janelle (McKenzie) Long (spouse-Quinton), Timothy McKenzie (spouse-Lashawnda), Grover McKenzie IV, Justin McKenzie, Benjamin McKenzie, Dara McKenzie, Adia McKenzie, Anthony Foreman, Sydney Foreman, Ykita Foreman, and Michelle Osborne (spouse-Jason).

14 Great-grandchildren include Phebe Hayward, Noah Hayward, Jaylen Long, Chase Long, Layla McKenzie, Jordan McKenzie, Jayce McKenzie, Nyela McKenzie, Alayna McKenzie, Asir Lawler, Amya Walker, Marques Walker, Marion Walker, and Jason Osborne, Jr.

He had a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives.

After completing business school, Grover was hired at Scott Paper Company (now known as Kimberly Clark). He was promoted in 1955 to be the first Black professional employee to work in the corporate headquarters of Scott Paper Company. After working in data processing (IT) for close to 35 years, he retired when he was 58 years old as a Data Processing Manager.

After he retired, Grover and his wife, Sara, moved to New Bern, North Carolina. While in New Bern, they were members of St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church. Grover enjoyed his life of leisure by traveling with his wife around the U.S., participating in Senior Olympic Games, volunteering, and spending time with his children and grandchildren in activities such as tennis, golf, fishing, riding in his boat, talking about technology, and using computers.

After the passing of his wife in 2010, Grover moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina. There he continued to pursue his interest in technology, golfing, and being a leader and role model for The Grover and Sara McKenzie Family Foundation, Inc. The Foundation, founded in 2008, is a 501c3 tax exempt organization whose mission is to promote community involvement and support education assistance and opportunities. www.mckenziefamilyfoundation.org