

Michael
MCKENZIE
MCCALLUM SR.

DECEMBER 7, 1955 - MAY 31, 2025

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025
1:00 PM

GIDDENS MEMORIAL CHAPEL
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
2610 N MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89032

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF *Michael M. McCallum Sr.*

Michael McCallum was born in Kingston, Jamaica, on December 7, 1955. As the eldest of eight siblings, he learned responsibility and discipline early—principles that became the bedrock of an unforgettable legacy as a three-division world champion. Known for his surgical precision, granite chin, and especially punishing body shots, he earned the nickname “The Bodysnatcher” by dismantling opponents with technical mastery and unwavering grit. In 1984, he made history as the first boxer from Jamaica to win a world title, capturing the WBA super welterweight championship.

McCallum had an extraordinary amateur career, amassing a record of 240 wins and just 10 losses. He then thrilled fans from 1981 to 1997 as a professional, compiling a remarkable 49 wins (36 by knockout), 5 losses, and 1 draw—never once being knocked out. He became a world champion in three weight divisions: super welterweight (154 lbs), middleweight (160 lbs), and light heavyweight (175 lbs)—a rare feat that placed him among boxing’s elite.

Among his most memorable bouts were his electrifying knockout of Donald Curry, his tactical battles with James Toney, and his dramatic victory over Julian Jackson. Though many top fighters of the '80s and '90s avoided him at his peak, McCallum earned the respect of fans and peers alike for his professionalism, toughness, and ring intelligence.

Following his retirement, McCallum settled in Las Vegas, where he remained deeply involved in boxing as a coach and mentor, generously sharing his extensive knowledge with the next generation of fighters. His remarkable career and lasting impact on the sport earned him widespread recognition, including induction into four prestigious Halls of Fame: the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2003, the California (Los Angeles) Boxing Hall of Fame in 2002, the New York State Boxing

Hall of Fame in 2012, and the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame in 2013. These honors reflect not only his incredible achievements inside the ring but also his enduring influence on boxing communities across the United States and around the world.

But while boxing was his first love, Mike wore many hats—and poured himself into each of them. In 1987, his life changed when he fell in love with Verona, a beautiful, kind-hearted country girl with a radiant smile. Their love story spanned 38 years of marriage and family, raising three children in a home filled with joy, strength, and devotion.

He was ferocious in the ring and meticulous in his approach—yet at home, he was a jokester pulling pranks, singing loudly (whether he knew the notes or not), and offering warm hugs without hesitation. He took being a family man seriously, stopping at nothing to make sure they were well taken care of and protected. He was the kind of husband and father you could depend on—loving passionately, supporting dreams, and reminding his family to always give God thanks. He didn’t talk the talk—he walked the walk, leading by example.

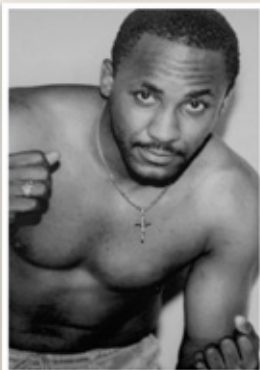
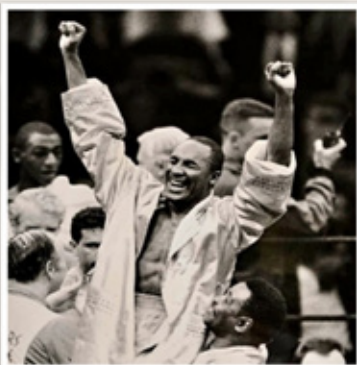
Mike McCallum is remembered not just for his championship pedigree and unforgettable nickname, but for his humility, discipline, and deep love for both boxing and family. He is survived by his wife, children, extended family, and countless fans around the world who were inspired by his journey from humble beginnings in Kingston to the pinnacle of the boxing world.

A true craftsman of the ring, Mike McCallum’s impact on boxing—and on the lives of those who loved him—will be felt for generations to come. He will forever remain in our hearts: a legend, gone but never forgotten. Rest in Paradise, Dad. We love you.

THE LIFE CELEBRATION OF *Michael M. McCallum Sr.*

Rev. Isaac Green, Officiating

The Family Procession.....
Scripture Reading.....	Pastor Charles McCall
Old Testament - Psalm 91	
New Testament - St. John 14:1-4	
Prayer of Comfort.....	Rev. Isaac Green
Musical Selection.....	“Come Jesus Come” by CeCe Winans
Poem.....	Janice Williams
Expression (Two Minutes Please).....	Family & Friends
Musical Selection.....	“Goodness of God” by Cece Winans
Obituary Reading.....	Breanna McCallum
Special Tribute.....	McCallum Family
Memorial Video.....	Giddens Memorial Chapel
Eulogy.....	Bishop Andre W. Jackson
Recessional.....	Family



"Man that is born of a woman is of few days,
and full of trouble."

Job 14:1

"So we are always confident, knowing that while we are
at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we
walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well
pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be
present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

REMEMBER ME

Remember me with smiles not tears,
for all the joy through all the years.
Recall the closeness that was ours,
A love as "sweet" as fragrant flowers.
Don't dwell on thoughts that cause you pain,
We'll see each other once again.
I am at peace... try to believe,
It was my time... I had to leave.
But "what a view" I have from here,
I see your face, I feel you near.
I follow you throughout the day,
You're not alone along the way.
And when God calls you...you will be,
Right by my side... right here with me.
Till then, I'll wait by heaven's door,
We'll be united... evermore.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Family of Michael McKenzie McCallum Sr. would
like to express their sincere appreciation, gratitude for all
prayers and acts of kindness they received during this
very difficult time.



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