



IN LOVING MEMORY

*Lester Leroy McKeel Jr.*

AUGUST 18, 1944 - JUNE 21, 2025



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## *Celebration of Life*

11 a.m., Wednesday, June 25, 2025

South Banks Community Church, Morehead City, NC

Officiated by Pastor Dennis Evans

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Processional, "Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome In This Place"

Scripture Reading, Psalm 91

"I Speak Jesus"

Remarks by Jonathon Robert Brooks

"Come, Jesus Come"

Eulogy

"How Great Thou Art"

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Lester Leroy McKeel Jr., 80, of Beaufort, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Crystal Coast Hospice House.

Lester was born on August 18, 1944, in Martin County, NC, to the late Lester Leroy McKeel Sr. and Lessie Wells McKeel. A proud Martin County native, Lester moved to Beaufort, NC in 1962 where he met the love of his life, Patricia "Patty" Nelson McKeel.

Lester began a long and successful career at NADEP in Cherry Point, retiring after over 30 years of dedicated service. Known for his reliability and quiet strength, he was a steady presence in both work and family life.

Lester's legacy is one of generosity, humility, a deep devotion to faith, and family. A longtime member of First Baptist Church, Open Door Baptist Church, Glad Tidings, and most recently South Banks Community Church he was always ready to lend a hand, a smile, or a word of encouragement. His deep belief in service extended beyond the church walls, as he could often be found helping neighbors or quietly providing for those in need.

He had a lifelong love of Shackelford Banks, yard work, and Tar Heels basketball. But above all, Lester treasured his family. His wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were the light of his life, and he was most at peace when surrounded by those he loved—sharing stories, attending their sporting events, or offering a laugh from his amazing sense of humor.

Lester is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Patty McKeel; his children, Gary McKeel (Sandra) of Beaufort, NC, Wendy McKeel Chandler (Gerry, deceased) of Little Egg Harbor, NJ and Lisa McKeel Bair (Dan) of Dubai, UAE; his granddaughter, Amber McKeel Spickett (Patrick) of Beaufort, NC; grandson, Johnathon Brooks (Avery) of New York, NY; granddaughter, Casey Styron (Jonathan) of Smyrna, NC; great grandchildren, Kyleigh Spickett, Kade Spickett, Cianna Spickett, Lukas Styron, and Lilianna Styron; brothers, John (Sigrid-deceased), Carl (Becky), and James (Theresa) McKeel; brother-in-law, Cliff Nelson (Shannon); sister-in-law, Terri (Mike); and several nieces and nephews who adored their "Uncle Lester."

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made to The Buddy McKeel Scholarship for Children of First Responders, 109 Riggs Road, Unit B, Morehead City, NC.

Arrangements by  
Munden Funeral Home  
Morehead City, NC  
[www.mundenfuneralhome.net](http://www.mundenfuneralhome.net)



## PSALM 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress:  
my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,  
and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings  
shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;  
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;  
nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand;  
but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see  
the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge,  
even the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee,  
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee,  
to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands,  
lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:  
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:  
I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:  
I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.