



Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie

December 16, 1928 - April 20, 2020

Verena Oelaria McKenzie (née Walters), the queen mom of the McKenzie Clan, transitioned to heaven unexpectedly due to complications from pneumonia Monday, April 20, 2020. She was 91 years young and lived a fruitful life.

Verena is survived by her eleven children and their spouses, 29 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and an innumerable circle of loving friends and family gathered over the years. She joins the love of her life, her husband Roy George, as well as her son Roy Angel, her father Claude L. Walters, her mother Doris Wilson, and her sisters Lillian Scotland and Miriam Lamb.

Verena was born in Camaguey, Cuba, on December 16, 1928. She left Cuba with her father when she was five. She enjoyed most of her childhood and early adult life in Jamaica. While attending St. Joseph's Teacher's Training College in St. Andrew, she met her sweetheart Roy McKenzie. They married on December 26, 1953, and started their own family. Verena taught at Alpha Junior School in Kingston from 1952 to 1963. In May of '63, Roy and a newly pregnant Verena migrated with their seven children to the United States to embark on new beginnings.

Verena stressed the importance of education her entire life. While raising her 12 children - all graduated from Catholic school - she returned to college and obtained her Master's in Education from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn, NY, in 1984. She continued her prolific career of teaching in the Archdiocese of New York Catholic school system until she retired.

Verena was a virtuous woman, a deeply pious child of God, and a devout member of the Catholic Church. She served for years as a Columbiette on the St. Columba Council, No. 1119, of the Knights of Columbus and donated generously of her time and money to charitable religious causes all over the world.

Her commitment to service, ministry, and community endeared her to all she met, and she will be deeply missed by those who walk with her legacy. Whether you knew her as Mommy, Grandma, GG, Auntie, Nena, Miss Mac, Mom, Ma, or Mother McKenzie, you could not forget her. She would not let you. To meet Verena was to be loved as Family.

Verena loved to travel and went on many trips all over the world. Mama loved to dance and "Rosemary" is once again dancing with her "Boy Blue" in heaven.

Services

Evening Viewing - 5:00 to 9:00 PM on Friday, May 8, 2020, at Pope Funeral Homes 5538 Marlboro Pike Forestville MD 20747

Evening Prayer Service (private/live-streamed) 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Morning Viewing 9:30 to 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at St. Augustine Catholic Church 15th & V Street, NW Washington, DC 20009

Funeral Mass (private/live-streamed) 11:00 AM by pastor Rev Patrick Smith

Interment Private at Sacred Heart Garden Mausoleum, St. Charles / Resurrection Cemetery Farmingdale, N.Y

Gifts

In lieu of flowers please donate to any of the following charities:

Catholic Charities - <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Saint Augustine Catholic School - <https://staug-dc.org/>

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy - <https://sfabrooklyn.org/>

Stella Maris Church - <http://stellamarisfoundation.yolasite.com/about-us.php>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie*

January 28, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie*

January 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Such a lovely lady, I was a good friend of Roy. My best to Paula and all the McKenzies*

Tim Dwyer - May 22, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ *Condolences to the family. Rest In Peace my dear Mrs. M. Love Pam and family.*

Imogene Bedward (Pam) - May 10, 2020 at 11:50 PM



“ *Thank you for sharing the service. My deepest condolences to the McKenzie family, she is your Angle now and you all are her legacy. Cherish the memories, may God comfort your family.*

*Sincerely,
Regina Whitted*

Gina - May 09, 2020 at 01:03 PM



GI

“ Gina lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie



Gina - May 09, 2020 at 01:00 PM

GI

“ Gina lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie



Gina - May 09, 2020 at 12:59 PM

SB

“ Extending love, light and prayers to the McKenzie family in memory of your beloved matriarch, Mrs. Verena McKenzie. 🕊️❤️🙏

Sondra J. Brandon



Sondra J Brandon - May 09, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie.



May 09, 2020 at 08:58 AM

DC

“ To Paul, Maria and the McKenzie Family - Please accept our sincere condolences and prayers for the passing of your Mother Verena McKenzie. We pray that the loving memories you shared with her will comfort you and your Family going forward. Our prayers of comfort and healing continue for you and your Family. Sincerely, LaVette and Peter Cooper



Dr. Peter and Mrs. LaVette Cooper - May 09, 2020 at 07:53 AM

WA

“ Wanda Alexander lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie



Wanda Alexander - May 09, 2020 at 12:41 AM

LW

“ Lorna Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie



Lorna Wilson - May 08, 2020 at 11:30 PM

JA

“ Your mother's ministry was her family. Her God-given strength, faith and love helped her stand as the matriarch of this beautiful family. She knows that you all will continue on with the God's peace and love. Your family has grown and touched so many people in unique ways. Be blessed and encouraged.

Jasmine - May 08, 2020 at 09:14 PM

CM

“ Please accept my deepest condolences on behalf of my family and I. Over the past years I feel like I've become one of the family, and I am really sorry that I cannot be there today. You now have another angel watching over and praying for you. I pray that the love she has passed on to her children will continue to flow through to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.. For the youngest ones, make sure you let them know that she was a true queen. She had a heart of gold and was just so welcoming. When you first meet her, you would think she has known you forever. I feel that warmth is a McKenzie trademark. All of you are like that, and it is easy to see where you get it from. I continue to keep all of you in my prayers at this difficult time.

Charlene
St. Augustine Church

Charlene Martin - May 08, 2020 at 08:39 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album McKenzie Clan



PaulMcKenzie - May 08, 2020 at 11:53 AM

PA

“ 2 files added to the album McKenzie Clan



PaulMcKenzie - May 08, 2020 at 11:51 AM

SW

“ To Paul, Maria and McKenzie Family,
Reading the obituary brought your mother to
life. One can't help but to feel connected to
her by reading about her life. As well as being
a Proverbs 31 "Virtuous Women," she also
wore a crown of righteousness and left a legacy of love to her family
and other families as well. She lived in her calling. "Well done my
good and faithful servant." Matt 25:21.
May the sweet memories of your mom bring you peace and make
you smile. God bless you all. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven
cannot heal." Sheila White, Michigan



Sheila White - May 07, 2020 at 08:43 PM

DL

“ My condolences to the whole McKenzie family on the passing of
Mrs. McKenzie. She was indeed an admirable and joyful woman,
whose gentle smile and warm maternal ways will be sorely missed.
May she rest peacefully in the presence of our Lord.

Dr.Vivian Lugo-Eschenwald - May 07, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ May she Rest in Peace

Patrick O'Connor - May 06, 2020 at 05:56 PM

RC

“ My deepest condolences to the entire McKenzie family. You all were
her pride and joy, and you only had to be with her for a moment to
know it. I am honored to have known her smile and embrace.
Sending you all much love during this difficult time.

Roberta Cosentino - May 05, 2020 at 03:52 PM

AB

🙏 *Hi Roberta. Hope you're well.*

Andre Bellamy-Cesar - May 08, 2020 at 08:50 PM

EQ

“ *RIP momma. Thank you for your love and laughter.*



Elizabeth Quinones - May 05, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden was purchased for the family of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie.*



May 04, 2020 at 11:57 AM

JL

“ *Joyce Lavender lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena O. McKenzie*



Joyce Lavender - May 04, 2020 at 11:43 AM

JL

“ *My dearest Sisters & Brothers in Christ Jesus,*

A life well lived, Mother McKenzie left a legacy for her entire family to share with the world. (Amen)

God's Love and The Peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyful Joyce

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Detroit MI

Joyce Lavender - May 04, 2020 at 11:43 AM

SS

To Verena McKenzie's family I extend my sincerest sympathy to the whole family we shared some precious times and what an amazing woman Verena is now in God's hands. May she rest in peace. Frn Shelia Smith Bklyn,N.Y.

Shelia Smith - May 08, 2020 at 08:54 PM

KP

“ *I send my deepest condolences to her family.*

Kathleen Pyne - May 03, 2020 at 12:09 PM

EM

Paul (Maria) and the Mackenzie family. I send my deepest condolences to you and your family. I didn't get to meet your mom, but I can feel that she was an amazing woman of God. I say this because her spirit lives in you as I have shared with you and with our ministry members.

I will continue to pray for you and your family. Keep the faith.

Peace n love

Ella Morris - May 04, 2020 at 11:53 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Christ Loves Me
We Love You*



Thomas Widgeon - May 03, 2020 at 06:22 AM

VT

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Verena T - May 02, 2020 at 03:15 PM

SB

Beautiful ladies

Sondra J Brandon - May 09, 2020 at 11:00 AM

BV

“ *Baby V lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Verena
O. McKenzie*



Baby V - May 01, 2020 at 09:13 PM



My friend, Verena, "Ouchupec", a friend in deed and in need. Her politeness lubricates the atmosphere of the Chase Manhattan Bank, where we worked at nights in the early 1970. I always remembered her laughter and sweet spirit. I surely miss her.

Ceta Clarke.

Ceta Clarke. - May 08, 2020 at 02:15 PM