



Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr.

March 7, 1948 - February 23, 2026

Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr. died at his home in Leesburg, Florida on Monday, February 23, 2026. He was 77.

He cherished his family and friends immensely and always wanted them to know they are loved.

Born March 7, 1948, in Birmingham, Alabama, Duncan moved to Groveland, Florida as a young child. He was active in sports, band, and enjoyed fishing and close-knit family gatherings on Bluff Lake. He graduated from Groveland High School in 1966 and served four years in the U.S. Navy, joining the buddy system with childhood friend, Danny Michele.

After graduating in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in education from Florida Technological University (now known as University of Central Florida) in Orlando, Duncan began teaching physical education at St. Charles Catholic School in Winter Park, Florida, before moving to Sarasota, Florida in 1979, where he was a physical education instructor at Brentwood Elementary School for over 30 years. Often called "Wes" by his peers, he retired from teaching in 2011 to devote time as a caregiver to his first wife, Barbara McRae, before she died in 2018.

Duncan was also preceded in death by his parents, Wesley and Katherine "Dolly" McRae of Groveland, FL; a sister Paula Stegall of Lady Lake, FL,

sister-in-law Cindi McRae, of Leesburg, and brother-in-law Mike Stegall of Lady Lake, FL.

Duncan is survived by his wife, Theresa McRae of Leesburg, FL; brother Timothy (Marilyn) McRae of Leesburg, FL., bonus daughters Maria Campbell, Julia Piwowarski, and Emily Gartner; niece Jenny Cote and husband David of Fruitland Park, FL; niece Holly Dickerson, and husband Judd of Lady Lake, FL, nephew Adam McRae and wife Taylor of Ormond Beach, FL; grandniece Eden McRae, and grandnephews Christopher Cote, Gavin Dickerson and Landon Dickerson.

A celebration of Duncan's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 28, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Leesburg followed by a reception at the church's fellowship hall.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Leesburg
220 N. 13th Street
Leesburg, FL 34748

Tribute Wall

LH

“ Love Kathleen Cheri and Haily purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr..



Love Kathleen Cheri and Haily - February 27 at 01:00 AM

LH

“ Love Kathleen Cheri and Haily planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr..

Love Kathleen Cheri and Haily - February 27 at 01:00 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr..



February 26 at 05:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wesley "Duncan" McRae Jr..

February 26 at 05:14 PM

JS

“ Jo Simonini lit a candle in memory of Wesley
"Duncan" McRae Jr.



Jo Simonini - February 26 at 01:22 PM

JS

Wesley Duncan was one of the most important and memorable men in my life. He was like a Brother to me and an Uncle to my daughter Gentry.

I'm so sorry I won't be there for his celebration with Theresa, Duncan's family and all his many friends.

His faith, kindness and lightheartedness were remarkable. And will be remembered and missed.

With love, Josie (as he always called me) ❤️

Jo Simonini - February 26 at 01:29 PM



I can't remember how long I've known Duncan, but he was a presence in my life as long as I can remember. A kind and gentle soul that never had a harsh word to say about anybody or anything. I can honestly say that I have never seen him happier since meeting and marrying Theresa. God bless!

Bobby

Bob Cobean - March 19 at 12:02 PM

LD

“ My deepest condolences to Theresa and the whole family. Wes, Duncan, Coach McRae, depending on the moment is how we addressed him. I've known Wes my whole life as a very close and dear friend of my family, he always felt like family. My brother had him for a coach at Brentwood, as did I 20 years later. It was always a challenge for me to be so excited to see him at school and remembering to call him Coach instead of Wes. There are not many celebrations in my life where he was not apart of them. I will miss his sweet southern drawl that made you feel so comforted, and his way of always making you feel loved and special. I can truly say I have never known a man that was so loved. I don't know a soul that ever crossed paths with him that wasn't drawn to him and immediately just loved him. Wes was the definition of a good man. This is such a loss for so many, and my heart hurts for his wonderful wife he loved so dearly. I hope you can take comfort in knowing how many loved him and everyone knew how happy and in love he was with you. I'm so lucky to have known him. I will always love and miss you Wes.

Lacey Dyer-King - February 26 at 11:38 AM

GD

“ I had the joy of meeting Duncan just once. It filled me with happiness to see his kindness and warmth knowing how important those things will always be to my dear cousin Theresa. I know Duncan's presence touched the lives of many and his memory will continue to inspire those who knew him. Let us all carry forward the spirit of love and compassion that he embodied. Cousin Gary Davis

Gary Davis - February 26 at 06:01 AM

TL

“ Although we never met Duncan in person, we could tell how much fun he was in the many pictures on Facebook. It showed how happy he made Theresa. So sorry to hear of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Theresa and all the family. Cousin Tim (and Linda) Linsmeyer

Tim & Linda Linsmeyer - February 26 at 04:25 AM

KD

“ We only knew Duncan for a few years after his marriage to our niece, Theresa. It would be hard not to like Duncan as he was such a “people” person. He was always friendly and outgoing the few times we had the pleasure of being around him. He could not have shown more kindness and love for Theresa. We are deeply saddened by his passing. Aunt Kathy & Uncle Jim (Davis)

Kathy Davis - February 25 at 04:40 PM

CD

I had the pleasure of meeting Duncan and immediately could see the blessing he was to my cousin, Theresa. I have enjoyed following their social media posts highlighting the great times the two were having together. We all wish it hadn't ended so suddenly. Cousin Roger Davis.

Cousin Roger Davis - February 25 at 05:49 PM

DF

“ Although I never had the honor of meeting Duncan, I know that he was an adventurous and fun loving man by the smiles on Theresa's face. Their love was an example for all of us.

Dinah Fuller - February 25 at 03:32 PM