



Ernest McRae Pennington

May 31, 1949 - June 28, 2022

Ernest McRae "Ernie" Pennington was born in Raleigh, WV on May 31st, 1949, and grew up in nearby Skelton, WV in Raleigh County to the late Ernest Earl and Ethel Elizabeth Taylor Pennington. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1967, and became a purchasing agent for the coal mining industry. In 1977 he met the love of his life, Karen Ann Wallen, and they married on June 17th, 1978. After spending a year and a half in Chattanooga, the couple moved to Bristol, VA, where Ernie would live for the rest of his life. On November 26, 1982, the couple welcomed a little boy, Jordan Christopher, who was Ernie's pride and joy. His primary source of employment once he moved to Bristol was as a sales engineer for various companies until, in 2006, he began working in the local hospital systems, retiring in 2017 as Director of Environmental Services for Mountain States Health Alliance. Ernie was diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease in 2012 and was undergoing treatment for it when he passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of June 28th. Ernie was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and elder. He was a loving, dedicated friend, boss, husband, and father.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Karen, and their son Jordan C. Pennington, Esq. and daughter-in-law, Andrea E. Pennington; two sisters, Marcie Thompson (Jim) of Winston-Salem, NC and Kay Duncan of Beckley, WV, as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 9th, 2022 at First Presbyterian Church, with Service of Witness to the Resurrection to follow at 11:00 am with Rev. Sam Weddington officiating. A private burial will be held in Glenwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Minister's Discretionary Fund of First Presbyterian Church, 701 Florida Ave. Bristol, TN 37620

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11: 25-26"

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at akardfuneralhome.com

Akard Funeral Home, (423) 989-4800 is honored to be serving the Pennington family.

Cemetery Details

Glenwood Cemetery

839 Bluff City Hwy
Bristol, TN 37620

Previous Events

Receive Friends

JUL 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
701 Florida Ave
Bristol, TN 37620

Funeral Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
701 Florida Ave
Bristol, TN 37620

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Ernie was a joy to work with. Extremely knowledgeable and conscientious. I miss seeing his great smile.* ”

Mark Montgomery - August 02 at 05:35 PM

DR

“ *Prayers for all the family and friends.* ”

Daniel and Tamara Reynolds - August 01 at 03:05 PM

OM

“ *We are sad to learn of the passing of Ernie. He was a wonderful person and a true gentleman. He made the world a better place. Our Prayers are with you.* ”
Olin and Sue Mumpower

Olin Mumpower - July 08 at 04:17 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Ernest McRae Pennington.* ”



July 08 at 11:12 AM

GS

“ *I'm sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. I'll always remember his leadership, but mostly I'll remember and miss his friendship.* ”

Gary Street - July 07 at 05:14 PM



“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



Akard Funeral Home - July 07 at 05:07 PM

JG

“ Karen, Jordan and Andrea, I can't express in words how sorry I am for the loss of Ernie. It was my privilege to get know him over these past 22 years. He always treated me with such kindness and made me feel welcome at the Pennington home. I know he loved his family very much. Ernie exemplified what is asked of us in Micah 6:8 "to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Marsha and I are here for you and will continue to keep you all in our prayers.

James Gregory - July 06 at 01:53 PM

JJ

Karen & family- I will remember Ernie not only as my boss at the JMH-- hospital, but also as a very kind & sweet friend. He was always Happy- making a day at work so much easier-- I will remember him and will pray for comfort for all your family-- Prayers---- Juanita & Eddie Jessee

Juanita Jessee - July 08 at 09:45 AM

PO

“ Karen and Jordan, I am so sorry to learn of Ernie passing. I have such sweet memories of him, especially while the boys were in elementary school. He was a wonderful dad. Phyllis Osborne

Phyllis osborne - July 05 at 08:41 PM

RF

“ Our Sincere Condolences, Ernie always had a welcoming smile and greeting every Sunday morning, May God give you all peace and comfort..

Ron & Manda Fox - July 05 at 03:00 PM

AW

“ Audrey Williams purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest McRae Pennington.



Audrey Williams - July 04 at 01:16 PM

EW

“ A very nice and generous man. Offered to let us borrow the correct tool to trim vines that reached high into our backyard wires. Always had a smile for us. Our prayers are with you and your family. May God bless you.



Eugene & Madonna Watson - July 04 at 12:09 PM

JP

“ Karen and family, I was very saddened to learn of Ernie's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences. His kindness and warmth will be greatly missed. God bless you and keep you in His care.

John Peters - July 02 at 08:31 PM

NM

“ I was shocked and very sad to hear about Ernie's passing. I saw him on Monday and thought he was doing well. We joked for a while and said our so longs and he smiled....I loved his smile. He was a great person to work for and a very good friend. Always had a lending ear. I will miss him dearly.

Nilsa Maestri - July 02 at 06:44 PM

DO

“ Donna Ostermeyer lit a candle in memory of Ernest McRae Pennington



Donna Ostermeyer - July 01 at 08:33 AM

JL

“ Dear Karen and Jordan, & family. I am so sorry and so saddened to learn of Ernie's passing. We enjoyed getting to know you two when you were at FBC. And now we have Jordan and his precious wife to enjoy there. Ernie was always so kind, and we'll miss that smile.

Joan Link - June 30 at 07:55 PM

MW

“ Such a good man and a kind soul.

Mark Walling - June 30 at 07:51 PM

GA

“ We were childhood neighbors, I hadn't saw him in yrs but thought of him often . We were more like family then neighbors. I love you Earnie , I know heaven is a sweeter place with you there

Gay Green Adkins - June 29 at 10:42 PM

MK

“ So sorry to hear about Ernie passing. He was a good boss and a very understanding person.

Mary Keohane - June 29 at 10:02 PM

TF

“ Dear Karen, You have our deepest sympathy for your loss of Ernie. We loved his smile, and he was always so glad to see people. He was so faithful to his Church and his God. and will be so missed by all of his friends. With kindest regards to you and the family, Tom & Sue Faucette

Tom & Sue Faucette - June 29 at 04:31 PM

KN

“ Karen and family-
I am so very sorry to learn of Ernie's passing. He was such a joy to be around. We always enjoyed seeing him come into the pharmacy and we are all deeply saddened. It's a comfort to know he's no longer suffering and is in the presence of our Lord. Keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Kim, Landon, Mikayla, and Gary with Ballad Health Pharmacy

Kimberly Nicholson - June 29 at 12:37 PM

GW

“ Karen and Jordan:
I am so sorry to read about Ernie. He was always kind. His love shows in the fine son he raised. I know he will be missed, but I also know that God promises us a place so wonderful we can't imagine it. Someday we will see him again and forever, in that wonderful place. Gary Whiteaker

Gary Whiteaker - June 29 at 12:29 PM

SE

“ Karen, I am so sorry about your loss. Love, Susan Early

Susan Early - June 29 at 11:43 AM

AW

“ Karen and Jordan, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will never forget Ernie's laugh and boisterous spirit. You all are in my prayers. Audrey Williams

Audrey Williams - June 29 at 10:46 AM

PF

“ Karen and Family,

My heart is broken as I learn of Ernie's passing. He was a great guy and knowing that he is in Heaven is comforting. He was wonderful to work with and to know. I pray your peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Patsy Fowler - June 29 at 10:09 AM

NR

“ I knew Ernie from being a volunteer at the hospital. Was the nicest guy. Always so friendly. This news is so heartbreaking. Prayers to all 🙏

Nancy Robinson - June 29 at 08:27 AM

JH

“ Hated to see this obituary. I have great memories from Bristol Senior League of Ernie from playing on Jordan's team, Woodmen of the World. I can't ever remember a prouder Dad than Ernie Pennington. He was at all games, practices, and always seemed so supportive of Jordan and the rest of us. Love and peace to Jordan and the rest of the Pennington family. Thank you for sharing such a good man with us!

John Hinton - June 29 at 07:55 AM

JD

“ *My heart is absolutely broken as I have just learned about the passing of a great man.*

Ernie Pennington was a Godly, kind, compassionate, understanding, encouraging, straight shooting, helpful man. They don't come any better than Ernie. He has been my boss, my friend and my mentor...not to mention one of the greatest influencers and encouragers of my life. The world is certainly more dull today but I know he has shone a light that cannot be extinguished.

Much love and many prayers for his family and friends.

Jessica Davidson - June 28 at 09:25 PM

LS

“ *Karen and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Ernie was a wonderful person to work with. He always had a kind word for everyone. May God be with you and comfort during this time.*



Leota Smith - June 28 at 08:17 PM