



William L "Lanny" McAlister

January 7, 1943 - May 28, 2020

A private graveside service for William Lanny McAlister, 77, of Russellville, will be Wednesday, June 3, at the Knights of Pythias Cemetery in Russellville, Alabama. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.

Lanny died May 28, 2020. He was born January 7, 1943 in Russellville to Lano and Mayme Seay McAlister. A 1961 graduate of Russellville High School, he earned a Music Education degree from Florence State College (UNA) and a Masters in Music from the University of Georgia.

Lanny spent his entire professional career in music education. He organized and developed several high school band programs before moving to the college level. He was especially proud to be the founding band director of the T.M. Rogers High School "Buccaneers in Blue". He taught at Gordon College in Barnesville, Georgia, before returning to Alabama to teach at Northwest Junior College. During his tenure at Northwest/Shoals, he directed numerous popular musicals. He is best remembered for two productions he wrote, *The Legend of Toyland* and *The Incident at Looney's Tavern*.

Lanny was an encourager and mentor to thousands of students. His lasting legacy is the countless students in whom he ingrained a lifelong love and passion for music. He accomplished this with both humor and discipline.

Lanny was selfless in sharing his musical talents at funerals, weddings, and other community events. He served the First Methodist Church in Russellville as organist and choir director for over 25 years. He was selected as Russellville's "Citizen of the Year" in 2017.

Preceding him in death are his parents and infant daughter, Elizabeth Lee. Lanny is survived by his wife Gayle, daughter Jennifer Lowery, sister Sharon Grissom (Curt), brother Jeff McAlister, grandsons Zack, Tristan, and Zeke Lowery, and several loving nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Music Department or Ministry Center at the Russellville First United Methodist Church.

Pinkard Funeral Home, Russellville, is directing.

Cemetery Details

Knights of Pythias

Clay Avenue
Russellville, AL 35653

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Flippen lit a candle in memory of William L "Lanny" McAlister*



Mary Flippen - May 24, 2021 at 06:29 PM

BP

“ *Lanny and I played together a lot as kids. I saw the response from Jim Goodgame who we also played together with since they lived fairly close together. I had a chance to talk with Lanny some during our 50th high school reunion. Fond memories. Never knew his real name was William. Unfortunately I just found out about his death today. You never completely get over these losses.*

Bob Pifer

Bob Pifer - June 06, 2020 at 12:49 PM

JS

“ *Lanny I will miss you, and thankful to be part of the Jazz Band and Orchestra/Drama Department during my time at NW-SCC. Music was an experience and your passion, and the relationships you help build will carry on through to eternity. Your love for Jesus Christ was evident, and the care you showed everyone really taught us Servant Leadership. You were an amazing director, husband and father, and man. Thank you for being an example to the world around you to us how to live!*

Jason Scarborough - June 05, 2020 at 07:22 AM

BM

“ *Gayle, so sorry know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I will always cherish the friendships we had in our 20 years in Russellville and in the Methodist Church there.*

Brenda Mills - May 31, 2020 at 12:58 PM

DK

“ *Donna King lit a candle in memory of William L "Lanny" McAlister*



Donna King - May 31, 2020 at 10:39 AM

JG

“ *One of my best friends in high school. We saw each other rarely but remained friends forever. I know he had a great life thanks to Gayle, his family and his music. Jim Goodgame*

jim goodgame - May 31, 2020 at 07:55 AM

PW

“ *There are thousands of musicians that Lanny taught or mentored throughout the years who are saddened at his passing. Our prayers go out to his wife, daughter, brother, sister, and extended family for solace at this time. His legacy will go on and on throughout the years.*

Phil Wright - May 30, 2020 at 12:16 PM

JM

“ Jim And Sandy Montgomery lit a candle in memory of William L "Lanny" McAlister



Jim and Sandy Montgomery - May 30, 2020 at 09:11 AM

SS

“ Beloved cousin. Will be missed. Prayers for his wife and extended family. Sondra Seay

Sondra Seay - May 29, 2020 at 06:10 PM



“ Tony BrakeField lit a candle in memory of William L "Lanny" McAlister



Tony BrakeField - May 29, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ Mary Flippen lit a candle in memory of William L "Lanny" McAlister



Mary Flippen - May 29, 2020 at 01:27 PM

JM

Such a nice, well-respected man. Thinking of you all.

Jane KEETON McManus

Jane KEETON McManus - May 29, 2020 at 06:59 PM

WH

Cus Wynell is think of you, Gayle. Love u

Wynell Howell - May 31, 2020 at 02:50 PM

ND

Gayle, Paul and I were so sorry to hear about Lanny. He was such a positive person and so talented. We enjoyed having you both in our lives during our time in Russellville. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Nancy Doane - June 04, 2020 at 07:26 AM