



Sarah McRae

April 20, 1933 - May 3, 2026

Sarah Pauline Jackson McRae was born on April 20, 1933, in Columbia SC. She was adopted by Pauline and Fuller Jackson in 1935 and began her life in the farming community of Dovesville in Darlington County. In 1940, the Jackson family moved into a home built by Fuller on a farm he purchased. This home became the center of Sarah's universe for the rest of her life. Unfortunately, her father died later that year, and she was raised by a widowed mom with the help of friends, relatives and the extended family of the Dovesville Community and Black Creek Baptist Church. Her childhood friends and acquaintances always called her "Sarah Pauline" in the Southern tradition of double names. Sarah had many mentors during her formative years including her Aunt Earline Jackson and her 2nd mom, Pearl Lincoln. She had a happy childhood and enjoyed socializing with relatives, neighbors and friends. She always felt she was one of God's "special pets" and knew from an early age the grace and mercy of Our Lord and Savior. Sarah attended Dovesville Grammar School from the first grade to the seventh grade. Her desire for learning and teaching was encouraged by Miss Louise Kirven and Mrs. Mary Gandy. These teachers instilled a quest for knowledge by teaching English grammar, arithmetic and science. She developed an avid appeal for literature, which followed her throughout her life. More importantly, these mentors instilled the need for proper etiquette, behavior and attitude. She attended Saint John's High School beginning in 1947. William Cain was

the principal, and he became an important mentor and a lifelong friend. During high school, Sarah participated in many activities. She was in the Glee Club, served on Student Council, served as Editor of the Bulletin, and attended Palmetto Girls State. She excelled academically and graduated as Salutatorian of her class in 1951.

Sarah attended Coker College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education with cum laude honors. While at Coker she was Editor of the campus newspaper, The periscope and assistant editor of the Coker yearbook, The Milestone. She played field hockey at Coker and lettered in the sport. She was on the honor hockey team.

Sarah always joked to her mother that she was going to marry a “red headed” farmer. Surprisingly, she met Johnny McRae during her senior year at Coker, and her wish was fulfilled in August 1955. Sara and John McRae spent their first years of marriage in Cheraw, SC. She taught school in Clio and Cheraw. She gave birth to twin sons in 1957, John and Lane. She survived the challenges of raising twins and managing a teaching career. In 1960, Sarah, John and family moved to Darlington to take over her family’s farm and business. Sarah had returned home. In 1962 and 1964, she gave birth to 2 more sons, Allen and Ken. Sarah was an only child, but she always wanted at least six children. She was attracted by the closeness and comradery of her husband’s large family of eleven siblings. She felt accepted by his mother and siblings. However, economics, life events, and the reluctance of her husband dictated that raising four sons would have to suffice.

Sarah continued her career as an educator while taking care of her family and mother. She taught at St Johns High School, Mayo High School, and Brunson Dargan Junior High. Eventually, she completed her teaching career at the Career Center teaching office occupations. She served as an advisor to the Future Business Leaders of America for many years, served as a delegate several times to the South Carolina Education Associate, President of the Associate of Classroom Teachers, and a charter member of the local chapter of the Alpha Delta Kappa, a teacher’s sorority. Sarah was selected as Teacher

of the Year by the Darlington Jaycees. She was appointed as Chairman of the Mary Jane Cain Memorial Scholarship Funds for many years. Also, she served as a board member of the G.C. Mangum Scholarship Fund. She retired from teaching after twenty-nine years of service in 1989.

Sarah was a lifelong member of Black Creek Baptist Church. She taught Sunday School for many years, sang in the choir, and served as a backup organist when circumstances required. She served as Chairman of the church's bicentennial celebration in 1979, and she attended mission trips to Brazil and Mexico. Black Creek Baptist Church served as the social and spiritual center of her family's life after she returned to Darlington in 1960. She developed many close relationships with her church family that are still prevalent today.

In her retirement years, Sarah remained active in community affairs. She served on the Board of Directors for the Coker College Alumni Association. Also, she and John served as Board Members for the Billie Hardee Boys Home. She functioned in the capacity of Guardian ad Litem. Likewise, she served as a counselor for The Lord Cares Ministries for years until her hearing impairment impeded her ability to assist. She remained active teaching Sunday School at Black Creek Baptist Church with the Faith and Works Bible Class.

Sarah always had a strong interest in literature, and she was an avid reader all her life. After the death of Johnny, she worked on publishing several books. Her first published book was *Smiling Through the Years*. This book was an autobiography of her life and how God bestowed his favor on an orphan child. The book provides insight and humor of growing up in rural Darlington County during the depression and World War II era. It brings to light the love, laughter, grief and triumph of a young girl growing into a woman. Sarah's second publication was a daily devotion called *Truths That Conform to Reality*. Sarah states that she is a student of the Bible, but not a scholar. The devotion addresses daily encouragement for living a spirit-filled life. Sarah's final book

was completed shortly before her death. She felt God allowed her to live to complete this book on what his church should be to a lost and dying world. Sarah is survived by her four McRae sons and their spouses: John (Patricia), Lane (Caroline), Allen (Tonja) and Ken (Lynne). Grandchildren are Benjamin McRae (Kimberly), Sarah Hawkins (Nathan), Bryant McRae (Sarah), Elizabeth McRae, Cameron McRae (Samantha), Shannon Oates (Jordan), Paul McRae (Emily), Kendall Flowers (Dalton), Jeffrey Scott (Brittany), Noah Scott (Bethany), Gabe Scott (Kimberly), Jennifer Knight, Kristina Weaver, Taylor Horne (Tyler), and Thomas Horne (Anne). She has fourteen great grandchildren. Also, Betty Jean Jones has been her lifelong childhood friend and relative. They shared many experiences and stories growing up. Sarah has left a strong legacy of faith and service for her family.

Sarah was preceded in death by her husband, John Lane McRae; her parents: Fuller Jackson and Pauline Jackson Sexton, her biological mother, Sylvia Dunning; her daughter in law Susan Powell McRae and her granddaughter in law Kimberly Brown.

A special thanks to Agape Hospice Care, Bethea Retirement Home and the McLeod Hospice House for their compassionate care.

Please send contributions to The Lord Cares Ministry PO Box 1457, Darlington, SC 29540 in lieu of flowers.

The family will be meeting at the home of John and Patricia McRae, 309 S McCall Street, Darlington sc 29532.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (est)

Black Creek Baptist Church
137 Mont Clare Rd
Darlington, SC 29540-9247
(843) 393-1140

Celebration of Life

MAY 9. 12:00 PM (Est)

Black Creek Baptist Church
137 Mont Clare Rd
Darlington, SC 29540-9247
(843) 393-1140

Tribute Wall

W"

“ John, Lane, Ken and Allen, I'm just now learning of Mrs. Sara's passing. I offer my heartfelt condolences to your entire family. I had the pleasure of visiting with her a few years ago and she was still the same kind and encouraging woman I remember when we were neighbors. Thanks to her, I had a successful career in the corporate world. She even mentioned me in one of her books. Thanks for sharing the memorable pictures of the woman I'll always remember fondly. God's peace and comfort to you all, Rev. Willie Mae McCall-Cannon "Mae"

Willie Mae McCall-Cannon "Mae" - May 25 at 09:16 AM

LM

Mae Mom was always so proud of you.

Lane McRae - May 26 at 01:58 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Sarah McRae



Rebecca Skinner - May 09 at 06:12 PM

CP

“ Chaplain Daniel Poston purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Sarah McRae.



Chaplain Daniel Poston - May 08 at 04:21 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home - May 08 at 09:45 AM

DB

“ Crazy as I woke up in the middle of last night thinking about Black Creek Baptist Church and my memories there and then to see this in the morning. Godspcak. She was such a kind and lovely person. Prayers

David Baird - May 08 at 08:16 AM

JH

“ Very pretty lady that was loved very much. I will definitely miss her and her FIGS! ❤️
Jane Boyette Harrington



Jane Harrington - May 07 at 09:29 PM

WG

Prayers 🙏🙏

Wayne Garris - May 07 at 11:36 PM

SL

“ Syvia L. purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Sarah McRae.



Syvia L. - May 07 at 04:39 PM

AR

“ Aberdeen Relay purchased the *Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Sarah McRae.



Aberdeen Relay - May 07 at 04:12 PM



“ 110 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home - May 07 at 09:25 AM

DB

“ *She was such a sweet person.*



Des Standish Brown - May 06 at 04:17 PM

RK

“ *John, Lane, Allen and Ken,
So sorry to hear about your mom. She was such a sweet person to
be around and such a good friend to my mother. Thinking about you
all.*

Ruth Kirven Templeton

Ruth Kirven - May 06 at 12:49 PM

LM

*Thank you Ruth. Mom is with many of her friends including Betty
Kirven*

Lane McRae - May 26 at 02:03 PM

DF

“ *Duke Energy Family purchased the Ocean Breeze
Spray for the family of Sarah McRae.*



Duke Energy Family - May 06 at 08:35 AM

DF

“ *Duke Energy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah McRae.*

Duke Energy Family - May 06 at 08:35 AM

KL

“ *Fond memories of this lady and her precious family. Prayers with love to each of you,*

Kathy Lawhon - May 05 at 10:13 PM

JL

“ *We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of this amazing woman. We feel honored to have known Sarah.
Rodney and Judy Langley*

Judy Langley - May 05 at 09:57 PM

SG

“ *Prayers for her family 🙏*



Sonya Garris Gandy - May 05 at 08:49 PM

WA

“ *Wayne and Donna Atkinson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Sarah McRae.*



Wayne and Donna Atkinson - May 05 at 06:49 PM

WA

“ *Wayne and Donna Atkinson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah McRae.*

Wayne and Donna Atkinson - May 05 at 06:49 PM

JC

“ We are praying for your family.
Pastor Jeff
Bethesda Retirement Community



Jeff Cockrell - May 05 at 05:26 PM



“ Sarah was such a lovely profound Christian To know her was to love her.To share my family with hers such a special honor. We shared so many good meals and fun times but most of all we shared Our Savior And LORD Jesus Christ.I am sure he is telling you now. Good Job True and Faithful Servant/.

Terry Chapman - May 05 at 04:16 PM

JF

“ To Mrs. McRae's family, I so loved Mrs. Sarah. She was my teacher at Cheraw High School. Years later when I saw her, I ask her why she was so "tough" on me in class. Her answer was " you remember what you learned in class" so that is why. She was a beautiful lady. I will miss her.



Jean Funderburk - May 05 at 03:34 PM

DT

“ Diane Watson Thompson lit a candle in memory of Sarah McRae



Diane Watson Thompson - May 05 at 01:56 PM

DM

“ Donna Smith Myers lit a candle in memory of Sarah McRae



Donna Smith Myers - May 05 at 10:38 AM

KB

“ Kim and Norwood Bonnoitt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sarah McRae.



Kim and Norwood Bonnoitt - May 05 at 10:05 AM

KB

“ Kim and Norwood Bonnoitt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah McRae.

Kim and Norwood Bonnoitt - May 05 at 10:05 AM

EG

“ Earl And Debra Grooms lit a candle in memory of Sarah McRae



Earl and Debra Grooms - May 05 at 09:55 AM

JH

“ John so sorry that that your mother passed.prayers for your whole family.I know that she will be missed by all the family. John and Brenda Horton

John Horton - May 05 at 09:23 AM

RC

“ Mrs McRae was one sweet and gracious lady. Always a “giver.” May the family and friends be comforted knowing you’ll see her soon, as Jesus is about to return. Always remember that Jesus said, “My PEACE I give to you. My PEACE I leave with you. Let NOT your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Rusty & Jennie Chapman - May 05 at 08:37 AM

LB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love,
Mike (Hamburger) and Laurie Yongue Bunting



Laura Y Bunting - May 04 at 09:08 PM

LM

Thank you. Hope you and Mike are doing well. Caroline says she sees Mary Gray at the grocery store on occasion.

Lane McRae - May 26 at 02:06 PM

MC

“ John, I'm sorry to hear that your mother has passed. I never met her, but, I'm sure she was a wonderful mom knowing you.

Mitchell and Kim Coxe



Mitchell and Kim Coxe - May 04 at 09:07 PM

DA

“ Mother loved your mother from the first time they met. Your mother's Godly spirit inspired and buoyed her so many times in their lives. My heart and prayers goes out to you all.

Dena Williams Anderson - May 04 at 05:31 PM

MC

“ John, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I remember the first time I met her we went dove hunting behind your parents home and when we were finished she had made sandwiches for all of us. She was a sweet lady and I know you and your family will miss her dearly. Thoughts and prayers are with y'all in this time of sorrow.

Maxie Cantley

Maxie Cantley - May 04 at 05:15 PM

GO

“ Ken, I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. She taught me at the Darlington Career Center when I was attending st John's from 1981 to 1985. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you prepare for her homegoing service and the days ahead. Always reflect back on the memories that you cherished with Sarah, they will last a lifetime. In His Care, Grady O'Neal SJHS class of 1985

Grady O'Neal - May 04 at 04:43 PM

CL

“ *Connie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Sarah McRae*



Connie Lewis - May 04 at 03:08 PM

DD

“ *Too many memories to name, she was always there when i needed her*

Darlene Delverde - May 04 at 02:52 PM