



Mrs. Lola McKnight

July 14, 1943 - November 20, 2025

Condolences are being expressed to the family of Mrs. Lola T. McKnight, age 82, who passed away on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at Duke University Medical Center.

Lola leaves to cherish her memory two daughters, Genea L. McKnight and Shawntae L. McKnight; sisters, Janet T. Grady of Kinston, North Carolina and Alice Jane T. O'Neal of Zebulon, North Carolina; one grandchild, Leilani Dio Parker; and a host of extended family members and dear friends.

Services to celebrate the life of Mrs. Lola T. McKnight will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 1102 Juniper Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701; visitation, 11:00 a.m. and celebration of life service at 12:00 p.m.

Interment will take place in Beechwood Cemetery.

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 4. 11:00 AM - 11:55 AM (ET)

Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1102 Juniper Street
Durham, NC 27701

Celebration of Life

DEC 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
1102 Juniper Street
Durham, NC 27701

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Tracey Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lola McKnight



Tracey Wilson - February 17 at 07:54 PM

DT

“ With caring sympathy and prayers to Lola’s daughters and family. As both an NCCU colleague and friend, Lola was a soft-spoken Treasure. May the family find comfort in remembering a life well-lived and well-loved.

*Dr. Angela O. Terry
VC Student Affairs (Ret), NCCU*

Dr. Angela O. Terry - December 04, 2025 at 04:02 PM

NM

“ Sincere condolences and prayers to the McKnight family.

*You are in our thoughts.
Cheryl Hall and Nivea Mosley
Bay Chapel Church*



Nivea Mosley - December 04, 2025 at 06:40 AM

FL

“ Family, you have my sincere sympathy for the loss of Mrs. McKnight. She gave me a job in her office in financial aid in the early 90’s. I did not have any financial aid experience, but she gave me a chance. She was one of the “tough cookie”, and I am forever grateful to her for teaching me financial aid, which became my occupation for 30 years.

Frances M Lunsford - December 03, 2025 at 10:27 PM

AV

“ In sympathy with the McKnight family during your loss.



Andre D. Vann - December 03, 2025 at 04:25 PM

PD

“ Pastor Jennifer Daughety lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lola McKnight



Pastor Jennifer Daughety - December 02, 2025 at 11:43 AM

PD

Condolence to the McKnight Family

Pastor Jennifer Daughety - December 02, 2025 at 11:44 AM

MW

“ *Very sweet soft spoken spirit*

Marilyn Womble



Marilyn Womble - December 02, 2025 at 11:19 AM

DC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Alice and the rest of the Tillman and McKnight families. May the precious memories of Lola help to ease your pain and give you all strength in the days ahead. Asking God to wrap His loving arms around each of you. Prayers, hugs and much love.*



Diane Cox - November 30, 2025 at 08:42 PM

ED

“ *Sincere prayers and condolences to the Tillman girls in the passing of your sister. The Dove family from Kinston sends loving thoughts.*

Evelyn Dove-Coleman - November 30, 2025 at 07:52 PM

KB

“ *Sister McKnight was one of the sweetest people I ever met. During my time as minister of music at Greater St. Paul, she was always loving, kind, and ready to offer that smile that always seemed made things better. I pray that the family's tears will soon be replaced by tomorrow's joys. Know that I am keeping you in my heart, and I pray God's peace upon you.*

Kent R. Brooks -- Chicago, IL

Kent Brooks - November 30, 2025 at 11:33 AM

PS

“ My condolences to the family of Mrs. Lola T. McKnight. I met her at NCCU as a student working in the business office in the mid seventies. She was very pleasant and always smiled. When I worked fulltime in the business office, she was more than willing to help with information. She was a kind and sweet person.

Pattie Elliott Smith - November 29, 2025 at 12:37 PM

GJ

“ I always remembered her warm personality, her love for people and her continuing contributions. My condolences to the family.



Gloria Fuller Jones - November 29, 2025 at 11:57 AM

SO

“ Sandra O'Neal lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lola McKnight



Sandra O'Neal - November 28, 2025 at 08:19 PM

DL

“ Condolences to the McKnight family, friends, and colleagues.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Apostle Lewis and Kairos Church Ministries*

Dr. Charles Lewis - November 28, 2025 at 11:16 AM

VG

“ Praying for comfort today, tomorrow and in days to come. May the family find comfort in knowing that Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. NCCU retiree Vanessa Gregory.

Vanessa Gregory - November 27, 2025 at 09:46 PM

MJ

“ Mary Jordan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lola McKnight



Mary Jordan - November 27, 2025 at 04:14 PM

BJ

“ Betty Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lola McKnight



Betty Jones - November 27, 2025 at 10:10 AM

TM

“ Condolences to the McKnight family, friends, and colleagues!

The world has lost another remarkable individual. I had the privilege of meeting Ms. McKnight during my matriculation at North Carolina Central University. At that time, she was quite, reserved and tall, but her exceptionally powerful voice inspired young students from disadvantaged backgrounds. She reminded us that we belonged here and could achieve success despite any obstacles if we dedicated ourselves and excelled in our studies.

I compare Ms. McKnight to Benjamin E. Mays, the former president of Morehouse College. Mays famously said, “The tragedy of life isn’t in not reaching your goal; it’s in having no goal to reach.” It’s not a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it’s a calamity not to dream... It’s not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it’s a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin.”

Tommy T McNeill, 93’

Tommy T McNeill - November 27, 2025 at 10:01 AM

DD

“ Thank you Mrs. McKnight for your service in sponsored research at North Carolina Central University. You certainly made my work easy for me in the school of education. Rest in peace, my friend.

Cecelia Steppe-Jones

Dr. Cecelia Steppe-Jones, Retired Dean - November 26, 2025 at 01:01 PM