



Maurice McDowell

January 30, 1961 - September 2, 2025

Maurice "Polly" McDowell, 64, of Chattanooga, passed away Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in a local hospital. He was a proud 1979 graduate of Howard High School, where he played on the football team and earned his claim to fame by scoring the winning touchdown against Riverside High School—a moment that gave him the nickname “Speedy McDowell” making him a Howard High School legend. He went on to serve his country as a United States Army veteran.

To know Polly was to love him. His laughter and smile could light up any room. His quick wit had a way of making ordinary days feel like a celebration. He was famous for turning any gathering into a good time and was committed to hosting the best Turkey Bowl in the city—an event friends and family enjoyed each year. Polly’s mission in life was simple but powerful: spread joy, keep people laughing, and leave everyone a little lighter than he found them. His humor, kindness, and larger-than-life presence will be deeply missed but forever remembered by all who were blessed to share in his laughter. He will be truly missed.

Maurice is preceded in death by his dad, James Wilson McDowell Sr.; grandmother, Elizabeth McClurkins-Collins; uncle, Willie Collins Jr.; aunt, Wanda Kay Collins; brothers, David McDowell and Tony McDowell; and niece Miracle McDowell.

He leaves to cherish his legacy: mother, Wilma J. McDowell; son, Maurice McDowell, Jr.; daughter, Maricka McDowell; brother, James Wilson McDowell; sister, Rosalyn Smith; cousins, Sredrick Collins and Toriaunto Collins; niece, Robin Lewis; nephew, James McDowell Jr.; best friends, Theodore Wright, Jeffrey Farmer, Michael Bell, Jeffrey Hemphill, Gary Wadley, and Stanley Hubbard; girlfriend, Jacqueline Myree; friend, Willie Mae Jones; and a host of other friends and family. He will lie-in-state Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service to follow at 12 noon in the chapel. Burial in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

DIRECTIONS TO LIVESTREAM: Click the link below.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc1NzQzMTQzNDE3Mzk3Njkmb25lcm9vbS1hZG1pbiZjb3B5X2xpbms=>

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

SEP **10.** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

SEP **10.** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

SEP **10.** 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall



“ *My condolence to the family Maurice was always a jokester that's what we love about him those are the days in posshome yes I still remember him and never forget him rest in peace my friend I just found this out*

Larry Edmonds - May 28 at 06:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Cemetery Service-Maurice McDowell*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - December 09, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ *RONNIE THOMAS lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



RONNIE THOMAS - September 30, 2025 at 01:17 PM



I've known Maurice for a pretty long time, Growing up in Poss Homes. God rest his soul. My condolence goes to the McDowell Family.

RONNIE THOMAS - September 30, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralServiceCamera1-MauriceMcDowell*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - September 19, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *FuneralServiceCamera2-MauriceMcDowell*



Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc. - September 19, 2025 at 05:58 PM

RH

“ *Reginia Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Reginia Hamilton - September 12, 2025 at 01:20 PM

CG

“ Carolyn Green sent a virtual gift in memory of Maurice McDowell



Carolyn Green - September 12, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TH

“ Maurice was my mother's neighbor for many years in Eastdale and he helped my late brother and I care for her during her many years of illness til subsequent death. I will never forget his kindness, the way he made everyone feel comfortable in a room and how he regularly checked on us to make sure we were ok. I will miss his jokes and the sound of his laughter. I am very grateful to have crossed paths with him in this lifetime



My condolences to the family... May God give you all peace and strength during this time. You are in my prayers...

- Tammy Bostick McClintock Harrison

Tammy Bostick McClintock Harrison - September 11, 2025 at 02:56 PM

AD

“ Angela Deloach lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Angela Deloach - September 11, 2025 at 11:34 AM

DS

“ Donna Sails lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Donna Sails - September 10, 2025 at 12:21 PM

RD

“ Rosalind Days lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Rosalind Days - September 10, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Maurice McDowell.



September 10, 2025 at 07:57 AM

AW

“ Ann Wadley lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Ann Wadley - September 09, 2025 at 11:51 PM

AW

*Maurice was just like a little brother to me because him and my brother Gary was very dear friends and they were so silly and it's so True, they will have you laughing all day.....R.I.P. Polly Gone but Never Ever forgotten and much LOVE always in the Mighty Name of Jesus 🙏
AMEN 🥰🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️*

Ann Wadley - September 09, 2025 at 11:54 PM

TW

“ *Toney Williams lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Toney Williams - September 09, 2025 at 11:17 PM

TW

Toney Williams sends condolences to Maurice's family.

Toney Williams - September 09, 2025 at 11:19 PM

KG

“ *Katrina Gordon lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Katrina Gordon - September 09, 2025 at 03:19 PM

BC

“ *Maurice will b truly miss he was such a Blessing to b around ,Always going to have you laughing, no matter where he saw you at*



Benita Crittenden - September 09, 2025 at 08:35 AM

KA

“ *Katrina Alexander lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Katrina Alexander - September 08, 2025 at 03:44 PM

JU

“ *Juhwonna lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Juhwonna - September 08, 2025 at 02:47 PM

ER

“ *Egalaco M Ringer lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Egalaco M Ringer - September 08, 2025 at 01:29 PM

TY

“ *Baby boy is what I can remember him saying! Rest in peace! My sincere condolences*



Tomikia G Yates - September 08, 2025 at 10:30 AM

TW

“ Polly was indeed a funny person.. From Poss Homes to Dee Drive. Take your rest. The Burgess and Wynn family will continue to pray for strength.



Tiamara M Wynn - September 08, 2025 at 03:31 AM

JS

“ CONDOLENCES TO THE McDowell Family.
Rest In Peace Polly 🙏

Jeffery Smith (J.J.) & Gwendolyn Smith



Jeffery Smith - September 07, 2025 at 11:21 PM

J(

“ Jeffery Smith (J.J.) lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Jeffery Smith (J.J.) - September 07, 2025 at 11:12 PM

TL

“ Tony & Demetria Leak lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Tony & Demetria Leak - September 07, 2025 at 10:09 PM

KS

“ *Sending our Condolences. Maurice will be missed. Kathy and John Sligh.* 🙏



Kathy Sligh - September 07, 2025 at 07:03 PM

BS

“ *Beverly Sales lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Beverly Sales - September 07, 2025 at 04:51 PM

AB

“ *Maurice a.k.a.Polly will be missed always could make you smile. My Prayers go out for the McDowell Family.*



Anna Butler - September 07, 2025 at 03:07 PM

DC

“ *I have a lot of memories of Maurice and my childhood best friend. Praying for the family.*



D. Carroll - September 07, 2025 at 01:24 PM

CW

“ *Carlethia D Watts lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



carlethia d watts - September 06, 2025 at 09:59 PM

HF

“ *Maurice,
You was one of our Mothers special kid. No
matter how many times she sent you home
you always showed back up.
Much Love and Prayers to your family our
brother.*



The Hudson Family

Hudson Family - September 06, 2025 at 02:46 PM

GR

I stood witness to the great touchdown Maurice caught against Riverside. I've seen a lot of football in my life and there has never been a more beautiful catch and score. Henry Bowles told Maurice to just run a fly route and he set sail towards Poss Homes as if some Alton Park boys were chasing him. He stuck his arms out and the ball just fell in like a load of bread in a basket. It made us cry. Maurice never let us forget about it. He talked about that touchdown catch for at least 45 years. It was his claim to Hustlin' Tiger fame. We will miss his smile and the telling of the story of that touchdown. Rest well, my favorite side receiver.

- Gary L. Rudolph HHS Class of 1980

Gary L. Rudolph - September 06, 2025 at 05:40 PM

SC

“ *Sandy Payeton Cox lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Sandy Payeton Cox - September 06, 2025 at 02:29 PM

SC

Sending our love and condolences from Howard Class of '79. Maurice's love and laughter will be truly missed at the All Class Reunion. It was good to see him this year and always.

Sandy Payeton Cox - September 06, 2025 at 02:33 PM

RH

“ *Reginia Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Reginia Hamilton - September 05, 2025 at 10:12 PM

YM

“ *Yolanda Moss lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Yolanda Moss - September 05, 2025 at 08:40 PM

AH

“ Audrey Thomas High lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Audrey Thomas High - September 05, 2025 at 04:54 PM

GS

“ Glenda Faye Stoudemire lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Glenda Faye Stoudemire - September 05, 2025 at 08:07 AM



“ Rest in peace Maurice!! ! A friend Martha Toran Richie. !!!

Martha Toran - September 05, 2025 at 03:52 AM

WB

“ Willie B lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



willie b - September 04, 2025 at 11:45 PM

YW

“ *Lit a Candle in Memory of Maurice: From Gary Wadley you will be missed my friend*



Yahunna Wadley - September 04, 2025 at 09:13 PM

ID

“ *Sorry for your loss, I'm going to let my husband know that his friend past.*



Ivonya Douglas - September 04, 2025 at 09:10 PM

GD

“ *Gloria J Daniels lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Gloria J Daniels - September 04, 2025 at 06:20 PM

DS

“ *Sending our Deepest Condolences from the Sewell Family*



Darlene Sewell-Ware - September 04, 2025 at 05:35 PM

AC

“ He was one of the funniest person, I've known. He could lift your spirits and encourage you with his words. You are a part of our Howard High School and Poss Homes Family Forever. Love you

Arline Crawford - September 04, 2025 at 12:45 PM

CE

“ Rip Maurice.. You & Your Funny Remarks Will Be Truly Missed ☐ Love You Polly 🙏



Ce'Auna - September 04, 2025 at 08:25 AM

LS

“ Louvina Smith lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Louvina Smith - September 04, 2025 at 07:21 AM

LS

RIP Maurice

Louvina Smith - September 04, 2025 at 07:22 AM

SL

“ Sam Lacy lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell



Sam Lacy - September 04, 2025 at 04:29 AM

TW

“ *Rest Easy Maurice* ❤️



Terra Hines / Theodore Wright - September 04, 2025 at 03:37 AM

TA

“ *Tamisha Allen lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Tamisha Allen - September 04, 2025 at 03:30 AM

RP

“ *Rip Polly you will be missed.....*

Robert Penn - September 03, 2025 at 10:29 PM

AB

“ *My Prayers are with the McDowell Family..*



Anna Butler - September 03, 2025 at 09:41 PM

MP

“ *Monica Pollard lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Monica Pollard - September 03, 2025 at 09:37 PM

MB

“ *You will be missed partner.*

Michael A Bell - September 03, 2025 at 09:19 PM

VM

“ *Vickie Merrell lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Vickie Merrell - September 03, 2025 at 04:24 PM

WF

“ *Westmoreland Family lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Westmoreland Family - September 03, 2025 at 02:55 PM

SM

“ *Smith lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Smith - September 03, 2025 at 02:26 PM

BC

“ *Benita Crittenden lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Benita Crittenden - September 03, 2025 at 01:02 PM

SF

“ *Snith Family lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



Snith family - September 03, 2025 at 10:25 AM

TH

“ *The Snith Family From Poss Homes lit a candle in memory of Maurice McDowell*



The Snith family from Poss Homes - September 03, 2025 at 10:24 AM



*RIP Polly you will be missed from
Gwen McDowell and Buckner family*

Gwen McDowell - September 05, 2025 at 02:19 AM