

Celebrating the Life of  
**Drewey D. McKnight Jr.**

September 29, 1925 - December 31, 2024



**Funeral Service**  
Monday, January 13, 2025  
Parkside Baptist Church  
Denison, Texas  
10:00 AM

Rev. Jeff Humphrey - Host Pastor  
Elder Larry Polk - Officiant  
Dr. Randll Murphy - Eulogist



## Life History

Drewey Daniel McKnight, Jr., lifelong citizen of Denison, Texas, and 8-year resident of Stonebrook Assisted Living, went home to be with the Lord on December 31, 2024, at the age of 99 years and 3 months.

Drewey Daniel McKnight, Jr. (D.D.) grew up in a large family and was the oldest of nine children. D.D. graduated from Terrell High School, Denison, in 1942, after completing the eleventh grade at the age of 16. After graduating from high school, he attended Prairie View Normal & Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M University) for a year and a half and was drafted into the United States Navy in World War II.

After returning from the war, D.D. completed his college work in 1948, earning a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. After graduation, he returned home to Denison and was employed as a teacher at Terrell School. He taught math and junior shop at Terrell School for 19 years before being transferred to Denison High School during the integration of Denison Public Schools. While serving at Terrell School, Drewey not only taught, but also sponsored numerous activities including the Hi-Y Club and the Photography Club. He also coached tennis and was the Business Manager for football game ticket sales.

In 1949, Drewey married his college sweetheart, Jewel Adams, in Houston, Texas. To this union, two children were born: Pamela and Steven. Jewel taught English in the Denison Public Schools for forty-eight years. After fifty-eight years of marriage, Jewel transitioned to eternity on July 14, 2007.

Drewey holds B.S. and Master of Science Degrees from Prairie View A&M University and has participated in three National Science Foundation Institutes, as well as doing graduate work in the counseling and administration fields during summer vacations. After serving six years at Denison High School, he was promoted to Title One Remedial Math Coordinator for the Denison School District.

In 1984, D.D. became the first black head principal to serve in the Denison School District. He served as principal at Hyde Park Elementary School. After serving six years as principal, he retired in 1991.

In 1979, D.D. was elected as the City of Denison's first black city councilman. He was re-elected to a second term in 1981.

For many years, Drewey McKnight, Jr., has been active in civic activities which range from the Gideons, the Kiwanis Club, the Library Board, The American Red Cross, Child Protective Services Board, Workforce Texoma Board, Jack and Jill Daycare Board, Fairview Cemetery Board, Scoutmaster and numerous scouting activities/organizations.

Drewey was awarded scouting's Silver Beaver Award to recognize exceptional character and distinguished service. The award of which D.D. was most proud was the Whitney M. Young Award for Unselfish Service to the Youth of America.

Drewey was a dedicated member of the St. Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, 411 N. York Ave., Denison, Texas, where the pastor is Elder Larry L. Polk. D.D. was a deacon, Sunday School superintendent, church treasurer, men's Bible Class teacher, building project supervisor, and trustee board member.

D.D. is survived by two children: Pamela Kay McKnight Polk and Steven Adams McKnight, both of Sherman; Son-in-law/Caretaker/Advocate, Ben W. Polk of Sherman; Grandson, Ben Steven Polk (Kim) of Farmers Branch; Great-grandsons James D. Polk, and Ben Rey Polk of Farmers Branch. Sisters: Carrol McKnight-Outlay (Jerry) of Arlington and Wanda Busby of Tulsa, OK. He is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jewel Adams McKnight; His parents Drewey McKnight, Sr., and Carrie McKnight; Brothers: James McKnight, Leslie McKnight, and William McKnight; Sisters: Georgia Jones, Glenda Washington, and Gloria Champion.

Thank-yous for special care for D.D. go to Stone Brook Assisted Living, Guardian Hospice, and to friend and neighbor, Herschel Brown.

Memorials may be made in D.D.'s name to the St. Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, P.O. Box 1254, Denison, TX 75021, and to the Gideon's at P.O. Box 178, Denison, TX.



# Order of Service

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| Processional  | Soft music  |
| Until Then  | Funeral Director  |
| Officiant   | Elder Larry L. Polk, Pastor<br>St. Emmanuel Church of God in Christ<br>Denison, Texas                 |
| Scriptures Old & New Testament                                      | Minister  |
| Prayer  | Minister  |
| Medley of Drewey's Favorite Songs                                   | St. Emmanuel Praise Team  |
| Church Resolution   | St. Emmanuel Church of God in Christ  |
| Family Tribute  | Family Representative   |
| <i>Per Family request, please present all tributes to an usher.</i> |   |
| Brief Ministerial Expressions                                       | Pulpit  |
| Introduction of Speaker   | Elder Larry L. Polk   |
| Sermonic Song   |   |
| The Celebration Message   | Dr. Randall Murphy (nephew)<br>Pastor of New Jerusalem<br>Worship and Praise Center<br>Houston, Texas |

Departing Blessing and Benediction  
Recessional



Tributes may also be mailed to the family in care of  
St. Emmanuel Church, P.O. Box 1254, Denison, TX 75021



**Pallbearers**

Barney Ruffins  
Herschel Brown

Frank McGilvery  
Vincent Williams

*Family Acknowledgement*

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so, we saw it there; perhaps you prayed a sincere prayer or came to pay a call; perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Perhaps you rendered a service unseen, near at hand or from afar; whatever you did to console our hearts.*

*We thank you so much, whatever the part.*

*~ The Family*

*\*Please turn on your headlights for safety.*

My Earthly Bed  
Cedarlawn Memorial Park  
Sherman, Texas

Services Entrusted To:  
Director James E. Smith  
with  
Waldo Funeral Home  
Sherman, Texas  
903-893-1101 • 903-267-9834  
Office                      Cell