



Carlston Bruce McKenzie, III

July 24, 1957 - December 16, 2023

Carlston Bruce McKenzie III, age 66, passed away Saturday, December 16, 2023. He was born on July 24, 1957, in Canton, Ohio, lived most of his early years there, and graduated from Canton McKinley High School in 1976. Carlston was a well-known power forward on the Bulldogs' champion basketball team. A basketball scholarship brought him to Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he completed two years of college before wanderlust tugged at his heart.

Carlston would go on to travel the country, temporarily settling at a resort in Glacier National Park, Montana, and then in Seattle, Washington. Eventually, he returned to Mankato, Minnesota, where he met his wife, Lois, on the softball fields. He was the umpire, and she was a catcher (of sorts-Carlston caught most of the stray balls in his shins). It turned out to be a pretty good way to get his attention! That was the start of their 37-year relationship. They were married on December 27, 1988, purchased their current home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, in August 1993, and have lived there ever since. On 4/4/2000, they were blessed by the birth of their only son, Carlston Bruce McKenzie IV.

Carlston loved horse racing, billiards, cooking, and most of all Ohio State football. He had an uncanny sense of space around him and a keen awareness of impending danger. He thoroughly enjoyed his calling to serve

with the Security Ministry Team at Speak The Word Church International.

Carlston worked in adult mental health with the State of Minnesota for 19 years, most recently as a social worker at Anoka Mental Health Regional Treatment Center. A few of his coworkers from there remain his beloved friends.

Despite serious health issues, Carlston was privileged to witness his son Carlston IV's Naval commissioning and graduation from The Ohio State University in May 2023. He was very proud of his son, not only of his accomplishments but of who he is and the man he has become. He absolutely cherished every minute of being Carlston IV's dad.

Carlston displayed incredible fortitude, stamina, and endurance in dealing with years of debilitating disease in his body. He never complained but always kept pressing on until his body simply couldn't anymore. He was a faithful, dedicated husband-very loving and protective. His commanding voice and ever-present distinctive laugh will be remembered for years to come. He gave the best hugs! We are delighted he is free and now occupies his glorified body, whole and without pain.

Carlston III was preceded in death by his father, Carlston Bruce McKenzie Jr., and one daughter, Cerise Andrea McKenzie. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lois McKenzie; son, Carlston B. McKenzie IV; mother, Delores McKenzie; two sisters, Caloa Moore, and Carla Dickey; uncles, Alvin (Constance) Gardener and Charles Gardener; soul-brother Hassan Ejakh, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, family-in-law, and close friends. Minnesota victory service will be Saturday, December 30, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Speak the Word Church International, 515 Jersey Ave. S., Golden Valley, MN 55426, with visitation one hour prior (10:00 AM). Following the service, a meal with light refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall at Speak the Word Church. Burial will follow at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens, 5125 West

Broadway, Crystal, MN, for those who choose to attend.

Ohio homegoing victory service will be Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 11:00 AM at The Living Word Christian Fellowship Church, 701 Broad Ave NW, Canton, OH 44708, with visitation one hour prior (10:00 AM). Repass will be in the fellowship hall immediately following.

The family would like to express our deepest thanks to all who have been a part of Carlston's life, especially during his difficult medical challenges. We appreciate your prayers and condolences during this time of mourning.

In lieu of flowers, please direct all memorials to the family (Lois McKenzie). or Lois' Venmo account:

@Lois-McKenzie-4 We will decide which charities to gift after the services are completed. Thank you.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Speak the Word Church International
515 Jersey Avenue South
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Memorial Service

DEC 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Speak the Word Church International
515 Jersey Avenue South
Golden Valley, MN 55426

Graveside Service

DEC 30. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Memorial Gardens
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Homegoing Victory Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Living Word Christian Fellowship Church
701 Broad Avenue NW
Canton, OH 44708

Tribute Wall

Jl

“ To the Family of Carlston (C-Train AKA). I was a neighbor of Ctrain, we had a fun relationship, both being good athletes we got it as being buds. I would grill a lot and have a few beers in the mid 90's, he would always come over and say “whad Up JT?” Cooking again?, I would always have a good chunk of steak set a side for us,, we would eat right off the grill and BS. Most of our times talking was about Sports, being a good neighbor, also being a Faithful person as well. He loved his wife and his new born boy, he also loved his golf game, always a wedge in his hands. The laugh of him was so contagious, I can hear it now as I am typing this in remembering him. C-Train may you RIP my friend, say hello to my Dad, fire up some steaks and have a cold one. Such a great man, honest, friendly.. Will be missed my friend, may god rest your beautiful soul big man.. Jimmy

jimmy - December 26, 2023 at 07:20 PM