



Niles Patrick Bacon

August 10, 1949 - September 16, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that our beloved Niles Patrick Bacon entered into the presence of the Lord on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Born on August 10th, 1949, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Pat peacefully passed away of natural causes surrounded by his loved ones in Athens, Alabama. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Gwendolyn Diane Bacon; his children, Diana Lauren Bacon, Nicholas Patrick Bacon, and Christopher Niles Bacon; his siblings, Michael Winton Bacon and the late Phyllis Ann Rice; along with many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Bacon (as he was affectionately known in the community) was a friend to all who met him. He had the biggest heart, a witty personality, always helpful to others, and put all of his best efforts into everything he did. This was evident in the hundreds of students that he taught every day for 40 years. Pat earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of North Alabama. Upon graduating, he started teaching in 1970 at the age of 21 as the junior high band instructor in Athens City Schools. As an educator, Mr. Bacon was selected as the Southern Accreditation Representative for Athens City and Limestone County Schools. He was also selected as Teacher of the Year and was Alabama State Board of Education National Teacher of the Year nominee. His tenure for the Athens Band Program, primarily Athens Middle School and Athens Intermediate School, was recognized as earning the longest tenure of any band director in the city

of Athens. A true tribute to Mr. Bacon for the dedication he has to the Athens City band program, the education of our youth, and to our community.

He was a member of numerous professional organizations, including Phi Beta Mu National Honorary Band Masters Fraternity and Pi Tau Chi National Honors Society at Athens State University. In addition, he was the minister of music for 40 years at First Presbyterian Church in Athens. His excellence in piano performance has blessed our community in numerous ways.

Above all of his wonderful accomplishments, Pat was most proud of his family, and he was a faithful and strong Christian father, husband, and spiritual leader. Although we will miss him dearly, we are comforted in knowing that our Dad is in the restorative presence of God, rejoicing with the Heavenly Choir.

The visitation will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home in Athens. A Celebration of Life Service will be on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church on the Square in Athens. Interment will follow the service at Roselawn Cemetery in Athens.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

523 US Hwy 31 South
Athens, AL 35611

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **20**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

SEP **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
112 S Jefferson St,
Athens, AL 35611

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I am so very sorry to hear just today of the loss of your precious husband and father. Pat and I were music majors at UNA. He was a loved and respected friend. I was in awe of his musical talent and not surprised at his successful career. God bless and comfort you all now and in future days. With love, Judy Clement Gray, Florence,AL

Judy Gray - October 09, 2023 at 01:46 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.



September 21, 2023 at 11:08 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.



September 20, 2023 at 08:30 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.*



September 20, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.*



September 19, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *I met Mr. Bacon when I went into band in the 6th grade. He was just awesome. That year I had a little school girl crush on him. I thought he was so cute! Then, when he married, I thought he and his wife made the cutest couple. My granddaddy, Birdwell McMunn, who worked at Julian Newman, always thought alot of you Mrs. Bacon. I was so sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Bacon. I hope he knew how many lives he touched. The family is in my thoughts and prayers...*

Wendy McMunn Spencer - September 19, 2023 at 04:58 AM



Wendy, thank you for your kind words. Yes, Mr. Bacon and I remember you and your Granddaddy McMunn through the years at Julian Newman. So grateful for the memories. Love, Mrs. Bacon

Gwen Bacon - September 26, 2023 at 02:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.*



September 18, 2023 at 07:06 PM



“ *Pat took over the responsibility of all of the bands when he was just 22, only 4 years older than us. Dan left to go to Memphis State to room with my brother, Bobby Mobley, and Stevan Strain when we were seniors. We were Pat's first graduating class, and we just had our 50th reunion.*

I'll never forget I took a group of 5th graders on a tour of the middle school. When we went to the band room I told them Mr. Bacon taught me. He said, "Kathy, you didn't have to tell that." Then he gave us a big smile and a welcome.

Pat honored me by making me first chair in the trumpet section, and that was such a thrill! He did an awesome job directing, teaching, and being the kind of person you could always go to if you needed any kind of help. We all loved and respected Mr. Bacon, and he will be missed.

Our hearts and prayers are with Gwen, Lauren, Chris, Nick, and your families as you grieve the loss of this man loved and respected by so many.

Steve and Kathy Jacobs

Kathy Jacobs - September 18, 2023 at 05:28 PM

GB

Thank you, Kathy and Steve. Mr. Bacon loved you and all of your family. He will be greatly missed.

Gwen Bacon - September 26, 2023 at 03:01 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Niles Patrick Bacon.*



September 18, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ *Mr. Bacon was a wonderful band director and person. I was introduced to band my 6th grade year at Athens Middle School playing the clarinet. He also was a neighbor on Hereford Drive for many years. My mom and I would visit with Gwen and the children and she would come visit us She was a great friend to my mom.. Prayers to her and the three children. Mr. Bacon was not only a band/music director, but a awesome friend to so many. Thanks for the memories Mr. Bacon.....Callie H Stewart....AHS class of 1986.*

Callie Stewart - September 18, 2023 at 03:18 PM

TH

“ I remember the first time I met Mr. Bacon. It was the summer before my 6th grade year and I was going to join the band program. I was so excited. I wanted to play the drums despite my parents' insistence that the trumpet we already owned would be better. He looked me right in the eye and asked me if I kept my room clean because drumming required very precise movements and attention to detail. Someone with a sloppy bedroom likely wouldn't be as detailed oriented as was needed. I couldn't lie because my mother was right there. So, the trumpet it was for me and that was perfect. I loved being a part of the band family and Mr. Bacon was my first introduction to that. He was a spectacular teacher - fun, witty, concerned, and involved - making sure all of his students were seen. I enjoyed having him for all three years of Middle School and his continued work with us, as time allowed, in his partnership of creating a wonderful band program as developed by himself and Mr. Havelly. I know he will be missed greatly by his family and all of the students who were lucky enough to have him as a teacher. - Tammy Scott House, class of 1986

Tammy House - September 18, 2023 at 02:20 PM

GW

My husband, Kevin J. Waddell (Class of 1988) just informed me of Mr. Bacon's passing and he was extremely saddened to hear the news. He told me that Mr. Bacon was the first teacher to give him the paddle. I asked him if he deserved it and he said, of course. He told me how the first time he walked into his classroom he had his snare drum with him. He told me Mr. Bacon said "I guess you're going to play the drums". He initially wanted him to play the trumpet. Mr. Bacon was the reason my husband got into music. He spoke really well of him and said that he even attended his brothers funeral. I am truly thinking this man made a huge impact on his student's lives. I know he did my husband's. He will surely be missed.

Gidget Waddell - September 18, 2023 at 03:41 PM

BF

I was dear friends with Phyllis, his sister! Spent many nights in their home! I can see him now late playing the piano! He was good! I loved watching him play! Such a nice guy, friend and brother ! Prayers for his family! I sure do miss my friend Phyllis! 🙏🙏

Becky Nesbitt Filler - September 20, 2023 at 12:30 PM