



Alex Cheeks

October 25, 1946 - December 18, 2024

Gurlyn Alexander “Alex” Cheeks went to heaven to be with the Lord and Savior on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, at home surrounded by family and friends.

He was born on October 25, 1946, in Birmingham, AL. He grew up in Fountain Heights and moved to McCalla, AL, at twelve years old. He attended McAdory High School and graduated in 1964. He attended Clarke College in Newton, MS before transferring to Ole Miss. During his time at Ole Miss, he decided to join the U.S. Air Force. He served in Vietnam, as well as the NORAD Santa Tracking Headquarters in Colorado. He worked at Alabama Power Co. and retired after thirty-six years of service.

He was an active member at Grace Life Baptist Church including being a member of The Seekers Sunday school class, and led a Men’s Bible Study Group. He enjoyed his family and the outdoors, including scuba diving in his younger days and keeping his pool clean and swimming with all the grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Gurlyn Cheeks and Virginia Turner Cheeks Horsley; stepdad, Claude Horsley; brother, Clarence Cheek; sister, Venira Payton; and stepdaughter Autumn McRee.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Ruby Crowley Cheeks; daughters, Amanda (Craig) Collier and Karen Cheeks Boolos; stepdaughter April (Adam) Mitchell; grandchildren Andrew Salze; Layla Boolos; Emma, Corinne, Lydia, and Julia Mitchell; “niece” Suzie Crumpton; and his “bonus” family, Kristy and Jodey Hogeland, Rita and Shawn Ankerich, Chris Bearden; and “bonus” grandchildren Josie, Judson, and Joshua Hogeland; Jonah Champion (Emily); Jesse Gilliland; Elijah, Carleigh, Abbigail, Rikki, and Dezzi Bearden; Michael and Elijah Reid; great granddaughter Harper Kai Salze.

Our gratitude and heartfelt thanks go to all who helped as we cared for him in these last few months: Ascension Home Health, Southern Care New Beacon Hospice, our family, church family, neighbors, friends. Thanks so much for your love and kindness.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Grace Life Baptist Church building fund (link: [Donate - Grace Life Baptist Church](#), then select “The Gift” in the dropdown box).

Visitation for family and friends at McCalla Funeral Home on Saturday, December 21st from 10-11a.m. and funeral at 11 a.m. No graveside services.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home
4780 Letson Farms Parkway
Mc Calla, AL 35111
(205) 477-4888
info@mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

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

McCalla Memorial Funeral Home
4780 Letson Farms Parkway
Mc Calla, AL 35111
(205) 477-4888
info@mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com

Committal Service

JAN **6**. 9:30 AM (CT)

Alabama National Cemetery
3133 Alabama 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

Tribute Wall

RT

“ I am certain that Alex Cheeks (Horsley) was my good friend Alex from the Fountain Heights neighborhood in Birmingham. He and his mother lived across the street from us on the 1200 block of 14th Ave, N. in the 1950's. Alex had a sister, Vanira, and an older brother who was a soldier in the Korean War.

The event I remember most from our childhood was the day Alex came to my house in tears over an argument with his mom. Alex announced he was going to run away from home. I was sure that, in the moment, he was very serious but I knew he would never run away from home. I tried to be a good friend and listened to him until he settled down. Several times he asked if I believed he would do it. Each time I assured him that I did. Eventually he calmed down and said he changed his mind. And since it was almost supper time, he should probably go home.

The last time I saw Alex was in a chance meeting just outside the old Birmingham Library in 1965. Alex was with his mom and announced that he was joining the Navy. We talked briefly and promised to keep in touch.

Sadly our lives changed and after serving four years in The US Air Force, my parents had moved to Atlanta. Once the internet made it much easier to look up old friends, I've tried several times to find Alex. Today I found my old friend, sadly too late.

Perhaps no one will ever read this but I wanted to share my memory of Alex with his family. .

Rest In Peace Alex.

R. Fitzpatrick

Eatonton, GA

RTFitzpatrick - September 06, 2025 at 07:26 PM

AR

“ Allison Rainey lit a candle in memory of Alex Cheeks



Allison Rainey - December 21, 2024 at 02:16 AM

JE

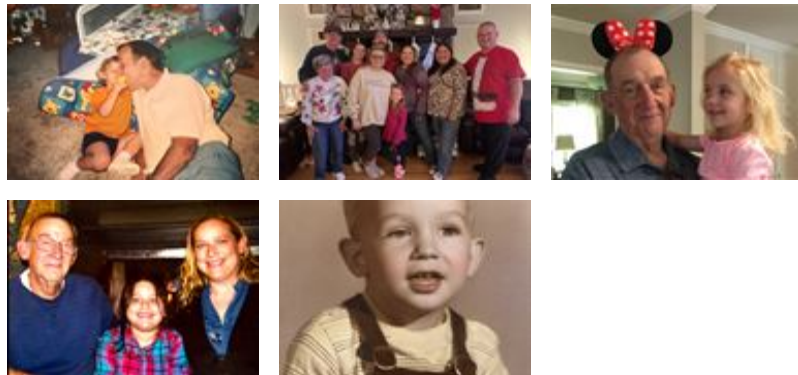
“ John And Sarah Elam lit a candle in memory of Alex Cheeks



John and Sarah Elam - December 20, 2024 at 10:30 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



McCalla Memorial Funeral Home - Traditions - December 20, 2024 at 02:22 PM