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**John Henry McKinney****MCKINNEY,****JOHN HENRY, 82**

Gainesville - John Henry McKinney, age 82 of Gainesville, FL passed away on March 29, 2015. He was born August 18, 1932 in Sampson City, Florida to Volley and Florence McKinney. He was the youngest of two boys; his brother, Chester, preceding him by seven years. The first few years of his childhood, he lived in Starke, Florida. When he was eight years old, his family moved to Gainesville, where he attended Kirby Smith Elementary and Gainesville High School.

While in high school, he played varsity basketball and baseball. When he was 23 years old, at 5'10" and 148 pounds, he pitched for the Gainesville G-men who were associated with the St. Louis Cardinals. He pitched against the Alou brothers who later played for the San Francisco Giants.

After serving in the Air Force for 4 years, he moved back to Gainesville to marry and raise a family.

John was a longtime member of the Gainesville Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church; served as an elder and church school board chairman; volunteered for 10 years with a health screening service; and was a member of the of the executive committee of the Florida Conference of SDA. He retired from the Gainesville post office where he worked many years as a letter carrier.

John is survived by his wife, Thelma Ruth Bradham; 4 children- John Jr., Bill, Darryl, and Rebecca; 9 grandchildren- John III, Laura, Chadwick, Christopher, Seth, Ryan, Allen, Kyle, and Skyler; and 4 great grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:30 pm on Saturday April 4, 2015 at the Gainesville SDA Church at 2115 NW 39th Ave Gainesville, FL, with a viewing just prior. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Bradford County Florida.

Arrangements are in the care of MILAM FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES, 311 South Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. (352) 376-5361.

**Funeral Home****Milam Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. of Gainesville**

311 South Main Street Gainesville, FL 32601-1803

(800) 433-5361

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