
Benard Joseph "Benny" McArdle

Bernard Joseph ("Benny") McArdle (March 19, 1931 - July 9, 2016) was born and raised in New York City to Irish immigrant parents. He came to Baton Rouge in 1949 to play basketball and baseball for the LSU Tigers. He was the point guard for the first LSU basketball team to play in the NCAA Final Four tournament in 1953. He was also outstanding pitcher for the LSU baseball team and selected for the All Conference teams in both sports. Benny graduated from LSU in 1954 with a degree in Education and later earned Masters degrees in History and Political Science. He met his future wife, "Boots" McArdle (nee Henrietta Ware) at LSU Christ the King Student Center where they were married in 1953. They celebrated their sixtieth anniversary there three years ago. After serving two years in the US Air Force at Lackland AFB, Benny taught and coached at BR High School where his 1962 basketball team won the state championship. In 1964, at Bishop Richard Borders' request, Benny left BR High to teach and coach at St. Joseph's Cathedral Prep High School. There he taught and coached many young men, some who are now priests in Baton Rouge and abroad. Benny then became a leader in the field of Chemical Dependency and Prevention Education for the LA State Dept of Education in the seventies. He then helped many people at the BR General CDU and the OLOL Tau Center. For years he helped many people as a volunteer. When Benny was diagnosed with dementia at Pennington Biomedical, he volunteered and helped other family members to understand and get help for their loved ones. His family is thankful that he is now enjoying his eternal rewards for a life well spent. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Boots, his sons, John (Libby), Frank (Gaye), Brian, & Chris. He has 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Elizabeth McMullen McArdle and son, Kevin Patrick. Funeral arrangements are Tuesday, July 12th, at Christ the King Church on LSU campus. Visitation will be from 9 to 10, funeral mass from 10 to 11, and reception following the mass in the church activity center.

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