



## Dr. Kenneth Joseph Reckford

May 26, 1933 - October 31, 2021

"Service is what you are called to do and unconditional love is what you need to do it."

- KJR 4/12/19

Dr. Kenneth Joseph Reckford, 88, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 31, 2021. He was born in New York City on May 26, 1933, the son of Joseph Samuel Reckford and Janet Sidenburg Reckford.

Kenneth is survived by his beloved wife, Charlotte Orth Reckford; his adopted son, David Orth Reckford (April); his stepson, Charles Carbonell; and by his children from his marriage to Mary Fenwick Reckford who predeceased him in 1987: Rachel Reckford, Joseph Reckford (Xiaomei), Samuel Reckford (Sue), Jonathan Reckford (Ashley), and Sarah Gray (Bill).

In addition, he is survived by 13 grandchildren: Spencer, Samantha, Molly, Alexander, Grace, Mary Stuart, Jocelyn, Julia, Lily, Jackson, Millie, Kenneth Everett, and Ada Louise; and, his brothers, Philip Reckford (Maxene) and Thomas Reckford (Jane).

For more information on his life and legacy as a scholar and teacher, please go to:

<https://classics.unc.edu/about-us-2/departamental-history-3/kenneth-reckford/>

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Florida, on November 13th, 2021 at 10am, and will be available to attend via livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCza36LM3P1mEVRuOvdNMw3Q>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Team Member Scholarship Fund at Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee, Florida (contact: Gail Alexander, (850) 878-9993), or the Kenneth J. Reckford Graduate Student Fellowship Fund in Classics at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Online condolences may be expressed at <https://www.abbeyfh.com/>.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
211 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth Joseph Reckford.*



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November 12, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Professor Reckford taught Roman Comedy in the early 1970's, and I was fortunate to be in that class. We put on a play by Plautus, "The Mostellaria," and it was both fun and a bit frightening (I still remember my opening lines.) After we'd finished the production, he invited us all over to his house for a party.*

*On the day of our final exam I remember two things: he was a bit late to class, and for some reason we were all singing La Marseillaise as he entered (no this was not a French class.) He was utterly charmed. Then, as part of that final, we were required to go individually into his office and read some lines from the play, something we all dreaded. However, it turned out that the required lines were from our part in the play, so it was actually very easy.*

*A couple of years after I'd left UNC, when he learned I was about to move away, he invited me to his house for dinner. Although I thought he was a bit eccentric, I found him to be a very kind man.*

*STTL*

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**Sarah Wright** - November 11, 2021 at 04:01 PM

JD

“ We feel very blessed to have been neighbors with Kenneth for many years in Roanoke Virginia. We enjoyed our Tarheel conversations. Kenneth was a brilliant, kind and gentle man. We shall miss him. Joan & Dave Boyd

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**jdboyd** - November 11, 2021 at 12:01 PM

BB

“ The Bedell family and the Reckford family were friends when we lived in Chapel Hill with children the same age. Spend the night weekends and weekly play times were enjoyed by all. Now the children are grown with memories of their childhood and join together to share this time with each other.  
Bettie M. Bedell, Nathan, Frank and George

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**Bettie M. Bedell** - November 10, 2021 at 01:05 PM