



Danie Arthur Johnson

January 1, 1947 - March 1, 2025

Danie Arthur Johnson, age 78, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his three children, on March 1, 2025 following a brief illness.

Danie was born to Henry Arthur and Alice Rebecca Simpson Johnson, on January 1, 1947 in Wilmington, NC. The family moved to Asheville, NC in 1950. After graduating from Lee H. Edwards High School in 1965, Danie attended Clemson University, where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1970. Returning to Asheville, Danie met the love of his life, Mary Louise Cocke, and the two were married in 1974. They later welcomed their three children and made their home beside Beaver Lake in North Asheville.

Danie founded his private architectural firm, Danie A. Johnson, FAIA/Architect, in 1974 and enjoyed a successful career in commercial and residential architecture. An active member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), he represented the South Atlantic Region on the AIA National Board of Directors from 1996 to 1998, received the Richard Upjohn Fellowship from the AIA in 1998, and advanced to Fellowship in the Institute in 2001. Danie was also active in the North Carolina chapter of the AIA, serving in multiple capacities throughout his career, including chapter president in 1992. He received the chapter's Richard Dietrick Service Medal in 1997.

Danie's professional contributions went beyond the many commercial

properties and private homes he designed that dot the landscape of North and South Carolina. He was a member of the Leadership Asheville inaugural class in 1982 and served on the Board of Directors for the Nature Society, Inc. (1982-1986) and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce (1989-1990). He was Vice Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Asheville (1986-1991) and served on the Architects Advisory Board for the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (1984-1997).

When not seated behind the drafting board, Danie could be found on the golf course, cheering on his Clemson Tigers, and going out of his way to make someone feel special.

Danie was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Lou; and his sister, Amy R. Johnson. He is survived by his children, Megan Whelen (Jim), Sally Pitts (Jack) and Craig Johnson (Lillian); his grandsons, Colin, Connor, Daniel and Nolan; his siblings, Fran Harris, Jimmy Johnson, and David Johnson; his brother-in-law, Phil Cocke, and his many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Riverside Cemetery, 53 Birch Street, Asheville. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to a charity of your choosing.

The family would like to thank the staff at Mission Hospital for their compassionate care in his final days.

Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Ave., is honored to be caring for Danie's family. Condolences may be sent through the website, www.MorrisFamilyCare.com

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Riverside Cemetery
53 Birch Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall

KF

“ I just saw this announcement and wanted to share a memory about my wonderful next-door-neighbor, Danie. We couldn't have been more opposite politically speaking, and judging him by his yard signs, I didn't get to know him for a few years after I moved into my house on Lakeshore Drive. Each time I walked the path around the lake in the late afternoon, passing by his house, I could see the light on his back balcony and hear him listening to Fox News. And then one day, I got up the courage to knock on his door to ask him for a recommendation for a contractor for something I needed to have taken care of. That knock led to a tour of the beautiful house he designed himself, and then to a neighborly friendship. When there was a dispute with the crew felling trees down in the bird sanctuary, which bordered both of our properties, he arrived at a meeting at my house offering full professional advice (and a bottle of wine) to the trustees of the sanctuary. All ended peacefully. He even offered to take care of my dogs for a few days once when I needed to be at a conference. Later that year, he sent them a letter, which I've kept to this day. ❤️

I'm so sorry to hear he's no longer with us. He was a wonderful neighbor and a very kind friend.

Kristin Fellows



Kristin Fellows - April 25 at 11:34 AM



“ I had some correspondence with Danie a year ago regarding the situation with AIA National. While we never met in person or spoke on the phone, we did have a fruitful correspondence and I hoped we could continue the conversation on the future of our profession. I am sorry to hear of his passing - may you find peace knowing he is in a better place.

Regards,
Ed Gauvreau, FAIA, F.SAME
Dayton, MD

Ed Gauvreau - May 31, 2025 at 10:07 PM

HA

“ Condolences to Danie's family. I grew up as a close friend with Danie and his little sister, Fran as a child. Grace School, David Millard and Lee Edwards as well as Grace Covenant. I left Asheville in the 60's and was blessed to see him a time or two after that. Always a dear friend and proud to have known him.

Hank Ausband - March 29, 2025 at 05:16 PM

MH

“ My husband, Olson, and I knew Danie and his family years ago at Grace Covenant. Love and prayers to his family at this sad time. May you find comfort in wonderful memories of a good man and find rest in God's steadfast love.

Marylyn Huff

Marylyn Huff - March 20, 2025 at 07:02 PM

AM

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of Danie. When we moved to Asheville, Danie and Lou were some of the first people we met who welcomed us into the community. Jonathan and Craig became close friends at that time at Asheville Catholic and through years they spent time together between their home and ours. Danie was a gentleman with a great sense of humor and showed Jonathan kindness as he did his own family. He will be sorely missed. Andrea and Roger Massell

Andrea Massell - March 15, 2025 at 01:19 PM

JP

“ Jane Cocke Perdue planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Danie Arthur Johnson.

Jane Cocke Perdue - March 15, 2025 at 07:55 AM

JP

“ Jane Cocke Perdue purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Danie Arthur Johnson.



Jane Cocke Perdue - March 15, 2025 at 07:55 AM

CM

“ So sorry to learn we have lost Danie. He was unique, talented, and relentless in his defense of fairness. Grateful for his many touches on our community.

Carl Mumpower - March 15, 2025 at 06:16 AM

MH

“ Our condolences to Danie’s family in your loss of a really fine man. We met Danie through Lucy Smith, a special friend of his. We socialized with them on several occasions and our 2 granddaughters made really good friends with Danie. He was such a kind man with his own type of humor. He will be missed by many.

Randy & Marie Hyatt

Marie Hyatt - March 13, 2025 at 02:20 PM

CM

“ Thank you to the family of Danie Johnson. He was one heck of a good guy. I’ve known him since he was a teenager. I used to take him on camping trips. He built several houses for me and an office. He came to my wife’s funeral when he was very ill, and he wrote me the nicest letter too. The world would be a better place if there were more Danie Johnsons.

Charles E. Cummings, MD.

Charles E Cummings, MD - March 13, 2025 at 01:49 PM

MI

“ So many good feelings about Mr. Johnson. Thoughtful, competent, and a wry sense of humor ahead of his time. (I feel like he would have loved *The Office*). He loved sitting by the campfire, loved a good smoke, and he was a mighty fine wittler. The only Indian in the group (beside Don Harris) with an artistic bent. He built the amazing house our family now lives in! He also adored his family so fiercely. So much love to Megan and siblings. xoxo

miegan - March 12, 2025 at 05:58 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Danie Arthur Johnson.*



March 12, 2025 at 01:34 PM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts will be with you Fran. Danie will bw missed by many.*

Gregory Coggins - March 12, 2025 at 07:08 AM



“ *I met Danie through Mary Lou, who had been my best friend since the fifth grade. I was honored to be a part of their wedding. It was beautiful and was the beginning of a great love story. Danie wasn't usually around when I would visit. He worked...a lot, making a name for himself in the world of architecture and I would see his designs around Asheville when I came home to visit. Over the years, as I got to know him, I discovered he was really funny...with a sort of quirky sense of humor. He was a most devoted husband and an amazing provider for his family. I don't think he was ever the same after Lou died and I find great comfort in knowing that they are once again together. My most sincere condolences to the entire family, especially Megan, Sally and Craig.*

Nancy Barger Phillips - March 10, 2025 at 10:32 AM

MM

“ *Early in my career, Danie was a mentor and friend to myself and many of us in the A/E community. He was kind, loyal, funny and a classic gentleman. He sure loved his family. We will all miss him greatly. God Bless*
Mark McDowell

Mark McDowell - March 08, 2025 at 11:18 AM

RL

“ *I had the privilege of working with Danie many years ago as his secretary and can say he was a friend, always shared a laugh and offered many words of wisdom. Danie had a unique way to bring out the best in people and created an environment of warmth and camaraderie. Rick and I extend our sincere condolences to his family and as we come to terms with this loss, let us all remember the many wonderful moments we shared with him.*
Cindy & Rick Lovelace

Rick & Cindy Lovelace - March 07, 2025 at 10:14 AM

MF

“ *Danie contributed so much to our community. I enjoyed working and socializing with Danie when I worked for AIA Asheville. He was knowledgeable about Asheville and told many good stories about "back in the day". I appreciated, and admired him very much.*

Mary Fierle

Mary Fierle - March 06, 2025 at 04:49 PM

AS

Danie was a friend of mine many years ago. Didn't have the privilege of meeting his family, but know he would be an excellent family member. When he and I were in high school we went to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and we also went to our first Asheville Country Club Dance together. I graduated 2 years before Danie from LEHS. My deepest condolences to the entire family. Cherish all your memories of Danie in your lives.

God bless.

Anne (Cooper) Macintosh Speights

Anne Macintosh Speights - March 06, 2025 at 10:49 PM

LB

Danie was an excellent architect and a very fine person.

Lou Bissette - March 11, 2025 at 09:03 PM

SD

“ *RNM Engineers family will be praying for you during this time. Danie will be missed.*

Scott Denton - March 06, 2025 at 11:56 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Danie Arthur Johnson.*



March 06, 2025 at 11:53 AM

KR

“ My chance to get to know Danie through my involvement with the American Institute of Architects was one of the great good fortunes of my life. I know he will be missed, not only by his children and grandchildren, but also by anyone who ever had a chance to know him. Goodbye my friend. Safe travels.

KC Ramsay - March 05, 2025 at 04:00 PM

AF

“ Danie was my mentor in business, etiquette, AIA, and life...He was thoughtful, spoke with purpose and cared deeply for family, friends, community and his profession. He will truly be missed..... Alan McGuinn, FAIA

Alan McGuinn, FAIA - March 05, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DS

“ What a terrific gentleman, architect, leader and friend. What a sad loss but what wonderful memories. God bless you Danie and family...

Dave Simpson - March 05, 2025 at 11:40 AM

RF

“ Rick Grant & the Beverly-Grant family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Danie Arthur Johnson.



Rick Grant & the Beverly-Grant family - March 04, 2025 at 07:36 PM

AM

“ Danie was a wonderful friend since our high school days and visited me several times here in Greensboro. Lovely man. I called him *Delightful Dapper Danie*. RIP my dear dear friend.

Anita Goldstein Meyer - March 04, 2025 at 04:35 PM

KJ

“ Praying for the family. Love and God's peace to all. Kliff Joyce

Kliff Joyce - March 04, 2025 at 03:42 PM

SC

“ Danie was a friend of Harold's since the mid-sixties. There were fun times at the Country Club of Asheville for all kinds of occasions. Our children, Jonathan and Laura, remember Danie as the dad who played with them at the pool. He was such a unique and wonderful friend. We see him now in a better place dancing with Mary Lou.

Sharon & Harold Cox - March 04, 2025 at 02:53 PM