



## Mr. John Watts Jamison

November 22, 1930 - April 19, 2013

John Watts Jamison, 82, former journalist and public relations executive, died on Friday April 19, 2013 at the John F. Keever, Jr. Solace Center in Asheville. He lived in Charlotte, NC, for most of his life, and for the past 21 years he has lived in Asheville, NC.

Jamison was born on November 22, 1930, in Charlotte, the younger of two children. He was the son of the late James Randolph Jamison and Ruby Kelly Jamison of Charlotte. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1953 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. After graduation, he served as a U.S. Naval Officer with Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8). He served with the squadron in various deployments to Newfoundland, Greenland, Puerto Rico and the Azores, eventually attaining the rank of lieutenant.

He completed his active duty service in early 1957, returning to Charlotte where he took a job as reporter at The Charlotte News, covering city and county government. He then became a reporter at WBT-WBTV in Charlotte with the radio and television stations for nine years, becoming news editor. In 1967 he returned to The Charlotte News as city editor.

In 1969, he left journalism to join North Carolina National Bank in Charlotte in its Corporate Communications Department. He rose to vice-president for

corporate communications for the bank and its parent company, NCNB Corporation (now Bank of America). He left the banking firm in 1981 and worked in various capacities as an account executive for public relations and marketing firms in Charlotte and Houston, TX. He returned to North Carolina in 1987, and from 1988 until his retirement in 1992 he worked in the field of alcoholism and drug addiction treatment. He is the author of *Hunter's Paradise*, a novel, and *Confessions of a Gentle Skeptic*, a memoir.

In the mid-1970s, Jamison took a deep interest in horticulture and began a study of the native plants of the North Carolina mountains. He was a gardening protégé and friend of the late Elizabeth Lawrence, the well-known garden writer who lived in Charlotte. In the 1990s, he and Mrs. Jamison built an extensive natural garden at their Asheville home.

He is survived by his wife, Curry Jamison; a brother, James Randolph Jamison, Jr. of Statesville, NC; two sons, John Christopher Jamison of Towson, MD, and Kelly S. Jamison of Matthews, NC; two daughters, Laura Jamison Simmons of Lincolnton, NC, and Kathleen Jamison Sharpe of Monroe, NC; two step children, Mia and Eliot Wadopian of Asheville, NC and twelve grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM at the Botanical Gardens at Asheville, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804-3414 on Thursday April 25, 2013.

The family requests that any memorials be sent to CarePartners Hospice Foundation, PO Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813 or to the Botanical Gardens at Asheville.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Watts Jamison*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Dad, I miss you. Johanna misses you. John and Michael and Alex miss you. We are so happy to have had such a wonderful person as father and grandfather.*

**Kel Jamison** - December 18, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3,4 states "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away". Very soon now, we will never experience losing our loved ones in death. Hope these words give you a new hope.*

**Ana** - June 01, 2013 at 05:55 PM



“ *John was a gifted people manager who gently and patiently led me back into newspaper work and allowed me to find my footing in our trade. This was in 1970, when I returned to the newsroom after almost 20 years of arts-related volunteer work. Newspaper reporting had changed, and so had I. I will be forever grateful to John, my city editor, for his kindness, understanding, and patience, during a time when I was traumatized by a divorce and the challenge of raising three little children on my own.*

*Rita Adams Simpson*

**Rita Adams Simpson** - April 24, 2013 at 09:34 AM

CK

“ I absolutely LOVED John Jamison!

*When I moved to Charlotte in 1976 after graduating from Wake Forest University and starting my career in journalism and PR, John was one of the first professional connections I made.*

*He was a consummate professional, an exceptionally fine PR person. We all looked up to him. His skillset was flawless.*

*John was always generous with help and advice, easygoing with his charm and laughter and a true friend through and through, the kind of friend that time and distance cannot change.*

*You have my heartfelt sympathies in this loss, which would be untimely no matter when it occurred, but most particularly now. John was a truly great man.*

*Constance C. Knight (formerly Connie Fuller)  
Charlotte, N.C.*

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**Constance C. Knight** - April 23, 2013 at 07:23 PM

BB

“ Our love and thoughts are with you Curry.  
--Betty and Matthew B.

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**B Butler** - April 23, 2013 at 11:10 AM

TM

“ Curry,  
*We knew each other here in Asheville for some years. John (and you) were of great support to me and many others with your strength, hope and experience. I have thought of you and John many times over the years since Chunns Cove days. Please know that we will keep you both in our prayers.*  
Tom McMahon

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**Tom McMahon** - April 23, 2013 at 05:17 AM

AH

“ *I only met John a couple times and both were when he was showing his garden to me and friends. He was a truly gentle, sweet man who was so delightful when sharing his own delight in his plants. I am so thankful to have met him.*

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**Ann Huyler** - April 22, 2013 at 03:02 PM

MB

“ *It is with great sadness that I read of John's passing. He was instrumental in teaching so many of us what real PR is all about. His years as a leader in the Public Relations Society of Charlotte are remembered as some of the group's finest and most successful. I think of him often as I drive past St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte and look across the street at that beautiful house he loved. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and children.*

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**Marilynn Bowler** - April 22, 2013 at 02:29 PM

JE

“ John was one of those great friends who somehow dropped from my radar after he went to Texas. We worked together at WBTV for four years and stayed close in the public relations community until he took a job in Texas. I remember him for his warmth, intellect and talent. Just wish I had known he was so close in Asheville these past few years.

Joe Epley  
Tryon, NC

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**Joe Epley** - April 22, 2013 at 12:03 PM

MJ

“ Dear John, I think the world of you (remember that old song?). I do think the world of you and am so glad we had the time together in Grayton with your kids and grandchildren. All these years without contact and now this. Well, old friend, we'll see if there's anything to come. If so, I'll see you soon. Love, Mary. PS I'm in the middle of Hunter's Paradise and loving every word

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**Mary Jenewein** - April 22, 2013 at 09:52 AM

FT

Dear Chris,  
I am thinking about you and your family. I am so sorry. I will keep you in my meditations. Your Father would be proud to know how many lives you change with your teachings and guidance.

Namaste  
Love,  
Frances

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**Frances Tutt** - April 23, 2013 at 03:10 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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Mary Jenewein - April 22, 2013 at 09:15 AM

JO

“ My sincerest sympathy goes out to the friends and family John. It is such a difficult thing to deal with. As time goes by, you will begin to realize that as you think of his smiles, his love of his family, his laughter, the pain will have diminished a bit and you'll find yourself smiling again. I didn't know him personally but, having lost someone dear to me, I can empathize with the pain you have and are experiencing. What comfort such scriptures as John 5:28,29 brought me! You will read there about the promise Jesus gave of resurrecting our loved ones back to life. When he resurrected His friend Lazarus back to life ( John 11:38-44 ) He showed his ability and desire to fulfill that promise. Can you just imagine the joy Lazarus' sisters felt when they held him in their arms once again? This joy we too will feel in the very near future. Until that day comes, we have the promise that God will draw close to those whose hearts have been broken ( Psalms 34:18 ) I truly hope these few scriptures have helped lessen the pain you feel as they had mine.

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joni - April 21, 2013 at 11:54 AM

JJ

“ I have many fond memories of John who was such a GENTLE ,kind,thoughtful friend.Last time I saw him was many years ago when my wife and I were on Roan Mountain and I was so pleased and surprised to hear his voice call my name after so many years.How fitting that his service will be held at The Arboretum in Asheville.John always had that rare quality of truly caring for others.His quiet sense of humor and friendship is something I will always cherish.

J. Edward Crutchfield Jr  
Charlotte

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**J. Edward Crutchfield Jr** - April 21, 2013 at 11:25 AM