



John H. Lively Jr.

September 4, 1936 - January 19, 2025

John Hebron Lively, Jr., 88, went to his eternal rest on January 19, 2025. John was born in Asheville, NC on September 4, 1936. He grew up in Tampa, FL and spent his summers at the family-owned Kenhurst Lodge in Asheville. John was preceded in death by his parents, Winifred Kennard Lively and John Hebron Lively, Sr.; and a grandson, Ian Trent Lively. He is survived by his wife, Lucy Council Lively; and sons Clifford Brian Lively and Kevin Authur Lively. John graduated from NC State University in 1959 with a degree in Forest Management. He and Lucy were married on May 30, 1958, and they then moved California where John worked for the US Forest Service. A great adventure for John was his two fire seasons spent as a Smokejumper with the USFS, parachuting into remote forest fires. He would regale all with stories from those days. The family relocated to North Carolina in 1966 where John worked as a forester across the state and lastly as Assistant Regional Forester for the NC Forest Service until his retirement in 1996. He continued his forestry work as a consultant to private forest owners for several years following.

John was a member of Oak Hill Methodist Church. A lifelong Methodist, he faithfully served in local, district and conference positions and sang in the church choir.

John was Scoutmaster for BSA Troup 914 in Cullowhee for 12 years while living in Sylva. He enjoyed varied pursuits over the years such as rock climbing and cross-country skiing. Most of all he enjoyed woodworking,

carving, making frames and many furniture pieces over the years.

He was a member of the American Chestnut Society and a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

John will be truly missed by a host of fond friends and family members.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at Oak Hill Methodist Church, 277 Oak Hill Road, Candler, NC 28715. A reception will follow the service.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Oak Hill Methodist Church
277 Oak Hill Road
Candler, NC 28715

Tribute Wall

EL

“ I just learned of John's passing and I am praying for Lucy and the entire family. My wife, Linda, is John's 1st cousin. Linda went to our Lord in 2019. I remember our visits and the wonderful stories. We will meet again.

Ed Leffler - May 13, 2025 at 06:04 PM

CS

“ Just learned of John's passing. Prayers to you Lucy and his family. Wonderful person to work for., Carolyn Stamey

Carolyn Stamey - February 26, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CS

“ John was ARF when I started my NC Forest Service career in Lenoir in 1992. We would all get excited when we heard he was coming to town. We knew it would be a Lively time, learning from him a.d listening to his stories of his USFS and smokejumper career. He will certainly be missed.

Cabe Speary - February 05, 2025 at 12:44 PM

MT

“ Michael Thompson lit a candle in memory of John H. Lively Jr.



Michael Thompson - February 05, 2025 at 09:38 AM

MM

“ *Mark Megalos lit a candle in memory of John H. Lively Jr.*



mark Megalos - February 05, 2025 at 09:35 AM

SC

“ *Dearest Lucy and family, John has been an inspiration to both Scott and me with his knowledge in Sunday School about religious topics and his energy to persevere through life after his stroke. With you, Lucy, as his faithful wife and your sons (and daughter-in-law Robin), John continued to contribute to our world through his attendance at church and his steadfast support of Habitat for Humanity. I am saddened that I shall not see him again on this earth, but I rest assured that I shall see him again in Heaven. May God's peace and comfort be with each of you now and always.*



*With sincere condolences,
Scott and Sharon Conner
Niceville, Florida*

Sharon Byers Conner - January 25, 2025 at 02:41 PM

JR

“ *Johnny Robinson lit a candle in memory of John H. Lively Jr.*



Johnny Robinson - January 23, 2025 at 09:19 PM