



Lester Lanier Stephenson

June 17, 1948 - November 19, 2022

Wellford, SC – Lester Lanier Stephenson entered into Heaven on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 74 years of age. Lester was the son of the late Edwin and Ruth Lucas Stephenson and the loving husband of 47 years to Debra Jean Stephenson.

Lester served in the United States Navy over a span of 4 decades from 1967 – 1997 before retiring as Chief Petty Officer. During his career Lester served in Vietnam and Desert Storm and was a decorated sailor receiving the Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He also held an Associate of Arts from the University of the State of New York, a Bachelor of Arts from Governors State University, a Masters of Science in Education from Old Dominion University, a Masters of Ministry from Temple Baptist Seminary, and a Doctorate of Philosophy Theological Studies from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary. Lester was a good and faithful servant who loved the Lord and loved to study his Bible; often teaching Sunday School at his church. He also volunteered at Model Trains Station at Taylors Mill and was a private pilot.

In addition to his wife, Lester is survived by his son, Daniel Stephenson (Michelle) and his siblings, Joan Powell (Shirley), Larry Stephenson (Dreema), and Judy Hart (David).

He is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Faith Stephenson.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Living Waters Funeral Home & Crematory; 529 Spartanburg Hwy S. Lyman,

SC 29365.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Baptist International Missions, Inc.; <http://www.bimi.org>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Living Waters Funeral Home and Crematory
529 Spartanburg Hwy. S.
P.O. Box 758
Lyman, SC 29365
(864) 439-7141
info@livingwatersfh.com

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Judy Friddle lit a candle in memory of Lester Lanier Stephenson*



Judy Friddle - March 09, 2023 at 07:05 PM



“ *An Honor and a Privilege to sound live Taps during Military Honors for Chief Stephenson. Salute!*

Stephen Goshorn - December 02, 2022 at 07:36 AM

CP

“ *We haven't seen Lester since we left King George, which was in the 70s, a very different part of our lives. He was a very sensible young man, firm in his beliefs and opinions, and his contribution to Larry and me was that he convinced me to quit smoking while I was pregnant with our son, Derek, who was able to grow into a beautiful, healthy man. We send our prayers and sympathies to your entire family. We are so sorry to hear this news.*

Carolyn Pater - December 01, 2022 at 10:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lester Lanier Stephenson.*



November 29, 2022 at 11:11 AM



“ Lester, my cousin, was one of the few people in my life to accept me as I was and for who I am. I remember, as a child, how smart he was, how much he laughed, how much he cared about his mother, father, and family. I remember the gifts he sent to his family from overseas while he was in the Navy. I remember him staying with us a few times in Florida while stationed outside of Jacksonville. We played chess endlessly and walked on the beach and talked. Even though our philosophies and theologies were different, we accepted each other as is. I attended his wedding and watched him depart with his new wife, Debbie, in an airplane and I was jealous. When I earned my pilot's license, I remembered that flight. We often talked about flying and aviation. My family visited him and were present on his ship for a Polaris missile launch. This was the first time I heard my dad talk about his Navy service in WWII. We didn't see much of him for many years, but our family reunions in Virginia got us back in touch. These past few years we were able to reconnect on his trips to Florida for industrial training for manufacturers. We laughed, told stories, shared common interests, talked about family history, ate sea food, and always looked forward to the next time we could get together. I will greatly miss him. Getting to know him again was "great good fun!" as he often said at the end of our visits. Lester, you are gone too soon, but you are well remembered and loved.

Denise Lucas Rosenberger, Cousin

Denise Rosenberger - November 27, 2022 at 11:20 AM

NB

“ Lester was a very good teacher of the scriptures at our church, and also had a great sense of humor.

My condolences to Debbie and family.

Nellie Buckner - November 26, 2022 at 11:44 PM

GP

“ Lester was a dear friend and confidant. We shared many of the same interests and values. I greatly appreciated his writings and teaching. I was privileged to endorse one of his books and to sit under his instruction at church in ABF classes. We often prayed together, shared stories, and laughed at each other's quips. I always admired him as a man of solid conviction and courage. I thank the Lord for having known this good man and rejoice in the certainty of seeing him again in eternity.

Dr. Gerald L. Priest

Gerald Priest - November 25, 2022 at 02:44 PM

MM

“ Lester and I were fellow volunteers at the Model Trains Station. I will miss him and our chats about trains and life. He was a good man and we will sorely miss him at MTS. Peace and prayers for your family.

Michael Maurer - November 23, 2022 at 07:50 AM

PM

“ Lester and I came to know each other in church. I think we hit it off both from the love of Christ and because of our seafaring past, he in the U.S. Navy, and I in the U.S. Coast Guard. And then he got me involved with model trains, which has become an addiction. LOL I will always remember Lester for that. Every time I can't get the locomotive or the cars to stay on the track I will remember Lester. LOL Seriously though, I am glad to have known him. He was a good friend and confidant. I will miss him dearly.

Petty Officer 2nd class Michael Meehan - November 22, 2022 at 12:53 PM

BN

“ My wife and I share our condolences and prayers for Lester’s family. It’s been our pleasure to meet Deb and Daniel but we’re sorry it’s under these conditions.
May God give peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Buddy and Geraldine Nichols - November 22, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ Dad, I don't know what to say. It wasn't supposed to happen this way. I feel like I have learned more about you this past few weeks than in the last few years.. I am glad you are in heaven with Jesus, but you will be missed. A lot. I'm taking care of mom. I got this. So rest easy. Love you!

Daniel Stephenson - November 22, 2022 at 12:19 PM

DH

Joan, Larry, Judy and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Lester so well. How he looks like your mom. In just the short time that Randy & I lived by your mom and dad we learned to love your family so much. RIP Lester, in the arms of our Heavenly Father. 🙏
Dianne Hennis

Dianne Hennis - November 22, 2022 at 11:01 PM