



Dr. Johnny R. Graham

September 21, 1947 - February 26, 2024

Dr. Johnny R. Graham, 76, of Salisbury, NC passed away Monday, February 26, 2024 at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center after a period of declining health. He was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather.

Dr. Graham was born September 21, 1947 in Thomasville, NC to the late Harry “Doc” and Tene Graham. He was a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering and his Master of Science in Environmental Engineering at. He also attended NC State University where he earned his PHD in Transportation Engineering. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 in the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam where he earned a Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge then the 2nd Armored Division in Fort Hood, TX. Dr. Graham worked for Fiber Industries as an Apprentice Mechanic from 1966-1967 and again from 1969-1971 as a Computer Operator, then he worked for D.C. Linn, Inc. in 1973. He worked for O’Brien & Gere Inc/Engineers as a Contract Administration and Construction Inspector in 1974 and from 1975-1980 as a Project Engineer. He worked for Allan Miles Companies from 1980-1982 as a Staff engineer then was a Professor of Civil Engineering at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte from 1998-2012 when he retired.

Dr. Graham was a member of First Methodist Church of China Grove and on the China Grove Planning Board. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, SigmaXi, ChiEpsilon, and Tau BetaPi.

He earned numerous awards including the National ASCE Award for Outstanding Service, the ALCOA Foundation Outstanding Faculty Award, the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, and was inducted into the UNC Charlotte Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015 and the Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2020.

Dr. Graham enjoyed sailboat racing and won eight Lake Norman Series Championships, he loved to play golf and enjoyed reading Philosophy, History and Fiction, Golf and World Travel.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Harry “Buster” Graham, Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Anita, daughter, Jennifer Lambert (Alan); grandson, Brennan Lambert, granddaughter, Cordelia Kiser (David); sister, Linda Hill (Walter); niece, Teri

Boger (David) and great-niece Jill Boger.

The family will receive friends from 2-3 PM Saturday, March 2, 2024 in the sanctuary of First Methodist Church of China Grove, 110 W. Church St. A Celebration of Life will follow at 3 PM; officiated by Rev. William Van Wieren.

The family would like to thank Dr. Patel and Dr. Amin for their care of Dr. Graham.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Rowan Helping Ministries, PO Box 4026, Salisbury, NC 28145 or The Community Care Clinic of Salisbury, 315G Mocksville Avenue, Salisbury NC, 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Graham family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
110 W Church St
China Grove, NC 28023-2102
(704) 857-9713

Memorial Service

MAR 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church in China Grove
China Grove, NC

Tribute Wall

AG

“ I just tried to look up Dr. Graham and to tell him that I'm in first place in the US Investing Championship this year as of March. He's the person who got me started trading stocks after I took his Engineering Economics class at UNC-Charlotte in 2001 (over 20 years ago). I thought he would get a kick out of that. I'm sorry to hear of his passing and wanted to send my condolences.

Adam Graham - April 28, 2024 at 12:50 AM

RM

“ Johnny was not only my first cousin, but also my friend. I would spend a week in Rockwell in the summer. we would walk the railroad tracks down to the trestle. we would also walk to uptown Rockwell. When Johnny had his driver's license we would go to Salisbury and cruise and look at the girls. I cherish the memories of our friendship. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Johnny was a special person.

Richard and Wanda McIntyre - February 29, 2024 at 09:34 PM

SE

“ Mrs. Graham, I remember his mom as my Sunday school teacher for many years. I also was a 6th grade student of your at Rockwell elementary. Some of my best school memories were in your classroom. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Samuel Dean Ewart

Samuel Dean Ewart - February 29, 2024 at 08:49 AM

AT

“ Johnny was a very special first cousin and a kindred spirit. I always looked forward to his family's visits to Ellerbe to see his Grandma and Granddaddy. We have fun times playing baseball in the front yard, fishing and driving Granddaddy's car around the circle drive. Johnny was not an ordinary man. He read, studied and figured things out. With the help of the good Lord, he did everything he could to extend his life here on earth to be with his beloved Anita. He will be sorely missed. Anne and Johnny Thompson

Anne Thompson - February 28, 2024 at 02:58 PM

PW

“ We went to Rockwell Elementary School and East Rowan High with Johnny ! We also went to Rockwell Methodist Church with him and his Sweet Graham Family. We have always loved the Graham Family. We knew Anita as a dedicated School Teacher at Rockwell Elementary and she taught our Children. We were always proud of Johnny's many accomplishments ! May precious memories of Johnny give you peace and comfort in the weeks and years ahead. Johnny knew how much his Family and Friends loved him. We will see him again. Love, Pam and Ronnie

Pam Walker - February 27, 2024 at 09:44 PM

TS

Anita, I am so sorry to hear about Johnny's passing. You and your family are in my prayers. Going to church with you and Johnny, teaching with you at Rockwell were special times in my life. I also remember that beautiful smile Jennifer had growing up at First Methodist Church in China Grove. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers and I will always cherish my friendship with your family. With love and admiration. Sending prayers your way. Love Tim Smith

Timothy Smith - February 29, 2024 at 04:35 AM

DL

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Johnny and I grew up in Rockwell, were in Mr.Kelser and Mr. Dyson's 7th and 8th grades classes at Rockwell elementary and then high school at East. A lot of fond memories. Johnny will be missed.

David Linker - February 27, 2024 at 05:46 PM

RM

Johnny was not only my first cousin he was my friend.when we were growing up I would spend a week in Rockwell in the summer. We would walk the railroad tracks down to the trestle. We would walk to uptown Rockwell. when Johnny had his driver's license we would go to Salisbury and look at the girls.As adults we did not see each other very often I Cherish the times we had together He was very special to me. You are in our thoughts and prayers Richard and Wanda McIntyre

Richard and Wanda McIntyre - February 29, 2024 at 02:06 PM

RM

Johnny was not only my first cousin he was my friend. Growing up I would spend a week in Rockwell. We would walk the railroad tracks down to the trestle. We would walk to uptown Rockwell. When Johnny had his license we would go to Salisbury and cruise and look at the girls. When we were adults we did not see a lot of each other. I cherish our time together. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Richard and Wanda McIntyre

Richard and Wanda McIntyre - February 29, 2024 at 02:18 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Johnny R. Graham.*



February 27, 2024 at 02:00 PM