



Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr.

FEB 1, 1940 - MAY 12, 2025



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Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr.

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Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder, Jr., 85, of Albemarle, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The family will receive friends on Friday evening, May 16, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care of Albemarle.

Born in Stanly County on February 1, 1940, AL was the son of the late Arnold Lee Lowder, Sr. and Vera Burris Lowder. He is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of 28 years, Kathy Layton.

A man of intellect, kindness, and deep-rooted generosity, AL lived a life marked by service, scholarship, and stewardship. He earned a master's degree in mathematics and chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and went on to serve with distinction as a meteorologist in the United States Air Force. After his military career, he continued sharing his passion for knowledge by teaching at the high school level and later at Stanly Community College.

AL was also one of the founding officers of what is now AL Lowder, Inc., contributing to its growth and success. Outside of his professional endeavors, AL was a master gardener with a legendary green thumb. His vineyard and orchard were not just productive, they were sources of joy and learning for all who visited. He was especially known for his peaches, apples, tomatoes, grapes, and sweet potatoes. Always self-sufficient and always generous, AL delighted in teaching others about gardening, grafting, and growing with patience and joy.

He is survived by his children Don Layton (Crystal) and Chris Layton (Maranda), both of Albemarle; grandchildren Emerald Riegel (Tanner), Allysa Williams (Hunter), Christian Layton (Peyton), Wesley Layton (Oleaha), and River Layton; and great-grandchildren Cayden, Henley, Eleanora, and Halston. Also surviving are his brother Carl James Lowder (Marilyn), sister Emily Miller (James), sister-in-law Caron Lowder, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews: Becky



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Goforth, Kenneth Lowder, Carla Weyrick, Lane Lowder, Paige Emerson, Helen Simonson, and Susan Hazelet.

He was preceded in death by his brother Jerry Lowder and former sister-in-law Helen Lowder.

A faithful companion to his dogs and a quiet source of strength and wisdom, AL leaves behind a legacy of love, learning, and living close to the earth. In his honor, the family encourages friends and loved ones to plant a tree or flower—just as AL so often did, with care and purpose.

Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care of Albemarle is serving the Lowder family.





Events


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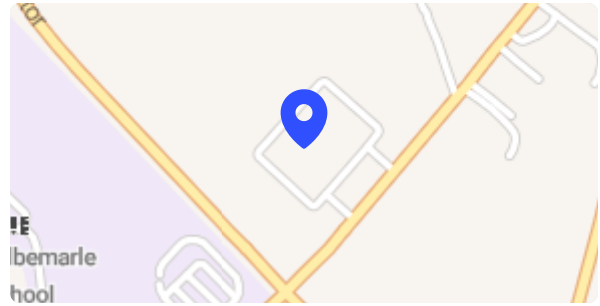
Visitation

 **Friday**, May 16, 2025

 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Stanly Funeral & Cremation Care -
Albemarle**

1835 Badin Rd, Albemarle NC 28001





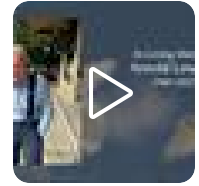
Tribute Wall

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Stanly Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



May 16 at 9:14 AM



Josh E posted:

Mr. Lowder would come into the store I worked at and buy fertilizer for his peach trees & garden. He was a hard worker that didn't let his age stop him from doing what he loved! We all need the ambition that he had! Rest easy sir

May 30 at 5:57 PM



Chuck And Lori Gaskin sent a Love's Journey to the Lowder family.



May 15 at 3:09 PM



Mikayla Williams posted:

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Mr. Arnold on Mondays at the Commons Farmers Market. His presence will definitely be missed. My heart goes out to the family and you all will be in my prayers.

May 15 at 10:50 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Lowder family.



May 14 at 12:57 PM



Tribute Wall

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AH

Anne Houck shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

As an Extension Master Gardener, Arnold very graciously offered his time to teach us how to graft fruit trees. He always knew the answers to our questions. I've attached a picture of an apple tree now growing in my orchard, that Arnold helped me graft. It always reminds me of his generosity and his love for trees.



May 14 at 12:38 PM

RL

Robert Louis Lowder posted:

AL was the eldest of 21 grandchildren on Icie and L. C. Lowder. He was the cousin we all looked up to for many reasons... all good ones, too. He was truly brilliant. We all were measured academics-wise to AL. Few of us achieved the highest marks, like AL, but we knew we were being measured to the best. AL shared a love of hunting with us as well. He and my Dad used to bird hunt from the day the season came in, until it closed. It was a joy to tag along on these trips. AL was a master at whistling Quail. He'd stand on a quiet spot and whistle, and the quail would answer. They found a lot of birds that way. I remember one morning when the three of us hunted only about 2 hours. We managed to bag 31 quail. The limit was only 10 per person, so you can bet AL wasn't responsible for the count. Good thing the game wardens weren't around that day. We always loved to be around AL at family gatherings. You could always count on some nugget of wisdom to be passed along to the rest of us. I guess you could say he was the E. F. Hutton of the cousins. During growing season you could always count on his bringing fresh vegetables and share them with us all. He was happy to share and very proud of what he raised on his farm. Rest easy cousin. You lived a good and full life that you shared with us all. My guess is you've already got your eye on a little corner of heaven... out a ways by itself, but not too far. A place you can grow and share your wisdom and other gifts with those already there.

May 14 at 9:56 AM

DF

David And Sarah Fisher lit a candle in honor of Arnold.

Our deepest condolences and prayers for the family.

May 14 at 6:20 AM



CR

Crystal Eudy Ridenhour posted:

Mr AL was a wonderful person he always shared his vegetables and peaches with us and he had a wonderful smile all the time I know Kathy will miss so much God Bless

May 14 at 6:01 AM



Tribute Wall

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WB

W Jack Blankenship Sr lit a candle in honor of Arnold.

Sending Prayers for God's Comfort during this sad time God Bless 🙏❤️

May 14 at 3:02 AM



JF

Johnnie And Joy Faulkner lit a candle in honor of Arnold.

Prayers for the family. 💜

May 13 at 3:33 PM



BJ

Bill Joe posted:

Sadness, tempered with a lifetime of great memories. Christmas dinners with most of us children sitting on stools, gathered in the living room, 20 to 30 of us. My freshman year at Pfeiffer was AL's senior year. We would often eat our evening meal together in the chow hall. And then several years in the AirForce, I following him a few years later. About 40 to 30 years ago he had some teaching duties here in Charlotte, and one day Lulu and I came home to a front porch with several big bags of tomatoes, peaches and corn. That generosity continued every other week during the growing season for at least ten years. And, Lulu still has the extra short rocking chair that he and Kathy gave to her, along with a bag or two of vegetables. Lulu and I will miss AL, but we have these, and many more, memories that we will cherish. Love, Bill Joe

May 13 at 3:09 PM



Media

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Anne Houck shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 14 at 12:38 PM



Arnold teaching us how to graft an apple tree.



Apple tree he helped me graft.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Arnold by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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