



Mr. William Lawton King Jr.

September 27, 1943 - September 17, 2023

William Lawton King, Jr., 80, of Caroline County, stepped into heaven early on Monday, August 7, 2023, at Marion Manor in Stafford, VA. He died of natural causes after an extended illness.

Lawton was born on February 27, 1943, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William Lawton King and Mitchell Smith King. He was the oldest child, a brother to two sisters. He was raised in Bishopville, SC.

His interest in science and technology began at a young age when he read through his family's set of encyclopedias. He became the youngest licensed amateur radio operator in South Carolina at 16 years old. After attending Clemson University and Rochester Institute of Technology, Lawton settled at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in White Oak, MD, later transferring to the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, VA. He worked with the Navy for 37 years as an electrical/network engineer before his retirement in 2003.

Lawton also spent 25 years in part-time ministry work. For nine years, he worked behind the scenes at A Can Can Make a Difference, a ministry focused on feeding the hungry in the Fredericksburg, VA, area, thanks to the MacAnanny Foundation. He then spent the next 19 years supporting missions in India, whether as a missionary himself or raising funds through Light to India Ministries to support Indian pastors, orphans, and widows. This ministry has built more than 20 homes for widows and provided 35 motorcycles to pastors of churches in remote areas.

Lawton was always an avid reader of poetry and literature, especially C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. He was also a poet himself and would often spontaneously recite his poems. He was a master of the "dad joke." And it was well known that if you needed to ask him a question, you had to make it clear you wanted the short version. Otherwise, you'd get the long version, and he'd tell you way more than you wanted to know!

Lawton was predeceased by his first wife, Diana Runkle King, on December 31, 1978.

Lawton King is survived by his wife of 44 years, Delilah Ann King; his five children, Tanya King, Cory King, Aaron King, Joel (and Nicole) King, and Michelle (and Anthony) Lipscomb; his eight grandchildren, Corbin King, Avery King, Jordan Carlson King, Samantha King, Abigail Lipscomb, Tobiah Lipscomb, Fiona King, and McKinley King; his sisters, Susan (and Ken) Starns, and Kathy (and Bud) Rollins; many nieces and nephews, Laura Bennett, Trez Rollins; BJ Joslyn, Troy Joslyn, Danielle Burtis, and Eli Joslyn; many in the loveable Runkle family; and numerous pastors, and their families in India, Ireland, and Israel.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at 1:00 PM on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at River of Life Church, 7408 Patriot Highway, Spotsylvania, Virginia. The service will be officiated by Pastor Dale Donadio and Pastor Joel Harris. A reception will follow. All are welcome. A homegoing celebration will be held on September 18, 2023, in Bishopville, SC, followed by a private family interment. The Directors of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home are caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to AMT/Light to India Ministries, a 501c3 (c/o Michelle Lipscomb, 501 Gibson Dr, #421, Roseville, CA, 95678).

We want to thank the River of Life Church pastors and staff for the use of the church and Marion Manor for the exceptional care they took of Lawton.

Cemetery Details

Piedmont Cemetery

720 Sumter HW
Bishopville, SC 29010

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

C"

“ *Lawton was my room mate at Clemson and was a true friend and a help thru some very difficult times for me. It is with sadness that I have just had learned of his passing. He was an outstanding student and a technological wizard! He was a true Clemson Tiger!!!*

*Charles E. "Butch" Carroll
Clemson '67*

C. "Butch"Carroll - November 23, 2024 at 12:24 PM



“ *Mr. William Lawton King Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 04:16 PM

SM

“ *A good friend and classmate. The world was a better place with you in it, Lawton. Sincere condolences to his family and to the ones in Bishopville that I know.*
Tanny Maddux

sandra Maddux - September 19, 2023 at 08:17 AM

LM

“ *Lena McCutchen lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Lawton King Jr.*



Lena McCutchen - September 19, 2023 at 12:46 AM

AA

“ *Archie And Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Lawton King Jr.*



Archie and Kay Amerson - September 18, 2023 at 10:38 AM

RH

“ *Rosalie Logan Hyatt lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Lawton King Jr.*



Rosalie Logan Hyatt - September 17, 2023 at 09:00 PM

RH

Sympathy, love and prayers for the King family!

Rosalie Logan Hyatt - September 17, 2023 at 09:01 PM

MH

I don't remember him but knew his Mom and Dad. This obituary tells me that he had a life,well lived. His legacy will live on through his many deeds. How awesome it would be if we were all so well spoken of. May we take this as an admonition and accomplish in winning souls and doing God's will.Sincere peace to all who knew and loved him. I know there will be a void in their lives. Rest in peace,kind soul.

Myrtle Ray hancock - September 18, 2023 at 01:36 PM