



Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr.

February 1, 1940 - May 12, 2025

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 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.

Previous Events

Visitation

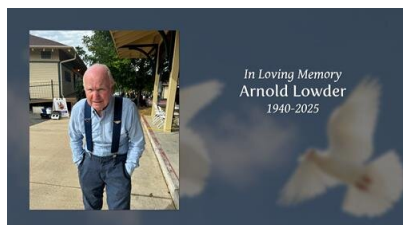
MAY **16.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stanly Funeral & Cremation Care - Albemarle
1835 Badin Rd
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-8134

Tribute Wall



“ Stanly Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr.



Stanly Funeral Home - May 16, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JE

“ 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

Josh E - May 30, 2025 at 09:57 PM

CG

“ Chuck and Lori Gaskin purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr..



Chuck and Lori Gaskin - May 15, 2025 at 07:09 PM

MW

“ 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.

Mikayla Williams - May 15, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Arnold Lee "AL" Lowder Jr..*



May 14, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ *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.*



Anne Houck - May 14, 2025 at 04:38 PM

RL

“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.

Robert Louis Lowder - May 14, 2025 at 01:56 PM

DF

“ Our deepest condolences and prayers for the family.



David and Sarah Fisher - May 14, 2025 at 10:20 AM

CR

“ 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

Crystal Eudy Ridenhour - May 14, 2025 at 10:01 AM

WS

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



W Jack Blankenship Sr - May 14, 2025 at 07:02 AM

JF

“ Prayers for the family. 💜



Johnnie and Joy Faulkner - May 13, 2025 at 07:33 PM

BJ

“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

Bill Joe - May 13, 2025 at 07:09 PM