



## Norris Earl Lewis

August 24, 1940 - May 10, 2020

Lewis, Dr. Norris Earl, age 79, of Christiansburg, went home to be with Jesus on Sunday, May 10, 2020. He was born in Cardinal, KY, on August 24, 1940, to the late Joe Lee and Hassie Hensley Lewis.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy Griggs Lewis, daughters, Allison Nagel and Kimberly Lewis, sons and daughters in law, Joseph (Jody) Lively and Julie Edwards and son Robbie, Michael and Brenda Lively, sister, Geraldine Ratcliffe, grandchildren, Kevin Lively and wife April, Kayla Bradley and husband Hunter, Emily and Jessica Nagel, Will and Norris Pittman, great grandchildren, Grant and Addison Lively.

Norris was a founding member of Good Shepherd Baptist Church where he served as Chairman of the Deacon Fellowship, Trustee, and member of the Finance Team. Norris also taught Bible Study classes for many years and loved speaking to others about the Lord.

In addition to his professional and church activities, he was also a special husband, father, papa, and friend. He loved his farm and his cattle.

Norris also served as Director of Self-Reliant Ministries (SRM), Director of Projects and Foundations, and Board Secretary for Advancing Native Missions (ANM) in Charlottesville. He drove to Charlottesville every Thursday for years to work at ANM. During that time he went on mission trips to Russia, Liberia, and Ghana West Africa.

Norris Lewis received his Ph.D. in Materials Engineering Science from Virginia

Tech in 1976, in addition to holding a M.S. in Physics from Virginia Tech (1971) and a B.S. in Physics from Concord College (1962). From 1962-1963, Norris worked as a Physicist in the Instrument Systems Research Laboratory at Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan, and from 1963-1969 as Staff Physicist in Analytical Methods Development at Celanese Fibers Company in Narrows, Virginia. In 1969, he began his career at Litton Poly-Scientific in Blacksburg, Virginia, as a Materials Scientist. As a strategic leader and technology visionary, within a few years he created and set up the company's Materials and Research Laboratory, which continues to this day in helping to develop and refine technology, products, and markets. Norris held numerous engineering management positions throughout the years until retiring in 2008 as CTO and Group Vice President of Technology at Moog Components Group, who acquired Poly-Scientific. Despite his retirement, he continued to work as an engineering mentor and consultant on Intellectual Property and Special Technology Projects until May 2017. During the course of his professional career, he authored twenty-five publications, twenty-five U.S. patents, and had also been a member of several professional organizations, including the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America, and SPIE. Over Norris' forty-eight year career at Poly-Scientific/Moog, he was instrumental in developing and championing multiple projects and technologies that have turned into internationally known and longstanding product lines, including Slip Rings with Fiber Brushes, Brushless DC Motors, Fiber Optic Rotary Joints, Fiber Transceivers, as well as numerous aerospace and defense slip ring products. Norris' strategic leadership helped to lead Moog to become a technically differentiated company offering the best products on the market. Throughout the years, Norris mentored many of the engineers and scientists currently working at Moog, encouraging them to pioneer new ideas and to persevere through early technology failures as they have developed into who they are today. Not only was he a distinguished and respected member of Moog's engineering management and intellectual property team, he was considered a great friend

by his co-workers.

We will receive friends and family on Friday, May 15 at the McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg. Visitation for our church family will be 3:30 -4:30 pm and for our family friends 4:30-5:30 pm. Please honor the times scheduled as the current restrictions only allow 40 people, including the family, to be inside the building at one time.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 16 at 11:00 am at the Lewis Family Farm, 805 Tower Road, Christiansburg, VA with Pastor Matthew Kirkland officiating. We invite all of our friends and family to join us for this service, as there are no limitations or restrictions there.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Norris's name to Good Shepherd Baptist, PO Box 398, Christiansburg, VA 24068.

# Cemetery Details

## **Dr. Norris E. Lewis Memorial Cemetery**

805 Tower Road  
Christiansburg, VA

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ I just learned of Norris's passing from my sister in law Malita Murphy of Princeton WV. Norris and I caddied at the Mercer Country Club for several years as youngsters. We lived within walking distance and went to Glenwood School. He was older than I and one of the smartest and most humble guys anyone could know. He and Pat Kelly built a dirt track racer, a 51 Ford at my brother Mason's Boiler Shop and I helped them on occasion. Norris worked his way thru College and as I remember was a candidate for the Air force Academy. He had a problem with a foot that didn't have a small toe and therefore could not pivot and balance and came back to Concord as I remember? He and Pat were out one night cruising in his 55 Mercury and I ran into them on a Church Parking lot with my old 51 Ford and Pat Challenged me to a drag race, him on foot an me in my car, he won.

To his family who I have never met, I cannot remember having a better and more likeable friend!

RIP

Michael Malone Murphy Ed.D.

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Michael Murphy - June 04, 2021 at 02:19 PM



“ Donna Christian lit a candle in memory of Norris Earl Lewis



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Donna Christian - July 30, 2020 at 04:42 PM



*We miss you so very much, you were so dear to us! We love you Norris, once we meet in those heavenly gates again we can sing our Praises to Christ our King!*

**Donna Christian** - July 30, 2020 at 04:46 PM

TT

“ *So sad to hear of losing Norris. Joyce and I missed seeing Norris and Judy at the last reunion at Pipestem. Our thoughts are with you, Judy.....he will be so missed by so many! Much love to you. Joyce and Terry Tabor*

**Terry/Joyce Tabor** - May 27, 2020 at 12:44 PM

JK

“ *Judy, I am so sad to hear about Norris passing. I considered him one of my best friends for the short time I attended Princeton HS. He, Pat Kelly and I hung around a lot together since we all lived in the Glenwood area. I don't know if he told you any of the stories the three of us got into, but they are memorable. He was the smartest of the three of us and I am sooo proud to have known him.*

*Sincerity*

*Jerry Kibler  
Class of 1958*

**Jerry Kibler** - May 25, 2020 at 12:50 PM

SW

“ *Shirley Sowers Woolwine lit a candle in memory of Norris Earl Lewis*



**Shirley Sowers Woolwine** - May 19, 2020 at 02:20 PM