



Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.

July 12, 1929 - May 4, 2023

In Memoriam: A Life Well-Lived

Edgar Herbert Lawton, Jr., 93, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 4, 2023, surrounded by family. Edgar was born on July 12, 1929, in Hartsville, SC, to the late Edgar Herbert Lawton and Louise Amis Lawton. He embodied a true Southern gentleman, known for his kind spirit, unwavering commitment to his family, and numerous contributions to the community. A celebration of Edgar's life will be held on Monday, May 15, at 11:00 a.m. at Magnolia Cemetery in Hartsville, SC. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the Lawton family.

Edgar's dry wit and charm left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Friends often called him a walking historian, mentor, and philosopher. Edgar was generous and thoughtful, bestowing his warmth, knowledge, and support upon those he met, leaving a lasting and meaningful impression. He was an avid reader with a keen intellectual curiosity, always eager to engage in discussions.

In his youth, Edgar adored his dog Rolly, riding his horse Stoney, boating and swimming on the lake, and raising Henrietta, his hen. With a lifelong love for the mountains, he cherished vacation time at his home in Blowing Rock, NC, hiking with family and friends. He enjoyed classical music and the arts but

especially loved entertaining with his guitar. His repertoire of songs still resonates today.

Edgar adored bluebirds and delighted at the rare visit of a painted bunting. An enthusiast of classic cars, Edgar was passionate about his 1936 Bentley, creating memorable experiences at Camden steeplechases, car exhibitions, and family weddings. As a skilled pilot, Edgar relished the freedom of flying and travel. He took much pride in his vegetable garden and Dahlias. He regularly played tennis and, in later years, developed a fondness for golf. Edgar perfected the art of bread baking and delighted his family with mouthwatering pot roasts.

Edgar attended Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia, before graduating from Princeton University in 1951 and Harvard Business School in 1953. He served as a naval officer during the Korean War in the Western Pacific. Edgar first met his devoted wife, Nan Davidson, in Long Beach, California, on a blind date, and they were married for 65 years. Upon returning to Hartsville, Edgar dedicated himself to the family business, working tirelessly as President of the Hartsville Oil Mill until his well-deserved retirement.

Throughout his life, Edgar served on the boards of several organizations, including Sonoco Products, NationsBank Carolinas, Coker University, and the Blowing Rock Country Club. He was Chairman of the Coker Foundation Board for 59 years, President of the National Cotton Seed Products Association, a Founding Director of the Byerly Foundation, Board Chairman and Life Trustee of Oldfields School, Chairman of the building committee for McLeod Hospital in Florence, SC, and was appointed to the Board for the original Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, SC. Edgar remained active in the Hartsville Men's Discussion Group until his passing. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Hartsville and enjoyed attending the Methodist Church in Blowing Rock during the summers.

On June 29, 1957, Edgar married Nan Davidson, and they raised a beautiful family of four children: Drusilla, Edgar III (Tru), John (Heidi), and Louise. The family later expanded to include ten grandsons: Alexei Cree, Justin Cree, Luke Cree, Miles Cree, Edgar Lawton IV (Mary Catherine), Henry Lawton, James Lawton, Owen Lawton, Ethan Lawton, and John Robert Lackey, as well as one granddaughter, Mary Lawton. Edgar was also blessed to become the great-grandfather of Evelyn and Lillian Lawton. He is survived by his nephew, Dr. Joseph J. Lawton III, who cared for him for 20 years, and his wife, Coles, and their children, Coles, Louisa, and James Lawton. Edgar was predeceased by his younger brother, Joseph J. Lawton, Jr.

The family is grateful for the many caregivers who provided their support and wonderful neighbors who were always there when needed. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Coker University, 300 East College Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Cemetery

140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Previous Events

Graveside

MAY **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Magnolia Cemetery
140 South Cedar Lane
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3004

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *What a beautiful tribute to a life well lived. Prayers are with you, Drusilla, Ed, John, and Louise as you celebrate his life and reflect on the precious memories you created. Jeda Kelley-Brandel*

Jeda Kelley - Brandel - May 25, 2023 at 11:59 AM

CB

“ *Edgar Lawton was a good man and will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and all of Hartsville. He made his home town a great place to raise families. All of you have our greatest sympathy. Love, Cecelia & Tom*

Cecelia D Brown - May 14, 2023 at 08:44 PM

AW

“ *Anna Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Anna Williams - May 14, 2023 at 04:35 AM

JO

“ *Joan Odom lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Joan Odom - May 13, 2023 at 06:07 PM

SS

“ *Mr. Edgar was as fine a gentleman as we have ever known. It was an honor and a pleasure to have known and done business with him. Our condolences to the the entire Lawton family. Scott and Bruce Smith*

Scott Smith - May 12, 2023 at 06:17 PM

CJ

“ *Charles And Teresa Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Charles and Teresa Johnson - May 12, 2023 at 09:11 AM

PW

“ *Phyllis Mims Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Phyllis Mims Watson - May 12, 2023 at 08:39 AM

RS

“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Rebecca Skinner - May 10, 2023 at 06:58 PM

JS

“ *Jerry Sumner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Jerry Sumner - May 10, 2023 at 04:38 PM

PC

“ *Paul and Carole Cannarella*



Paul & Carole Cannarella - May 10, 2023 at 12:36 PM

JM

“ *Johnny And Denise McLain lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Johnny and Denise McLain - May 10, 2023 at 11:45 AM

RB

“ *Randy Byrd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Randy Byrd - May 09, 2023 at 10:10 PM

GM

“ Goode & Gail Mobley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.



Goode & Gail Mobley - May 09, 2023 at 07:27 PM

DK

“ Donna And Henry King lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.



Donna and Henry King - May 09, 2023 at 03:44 PM

SS

“ Sherron L. Skipper sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.



Sherron L. Skipper - May 08, 2023 at 06:43 AM

DB

“ Dick Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.



Dick Brown - May 07, 2023 at 01:20 PM

JT

“ *Jane And Phillip Tedder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



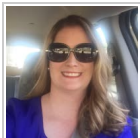
Jane and Phillip Tedder - May 07, 2023 at 01:03 PM

JC

“ *James and Susan Clemons*



james clemons - May 07, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers to all of the family. Bruce & Marissa Walters*

Marissa Walters - May 07, 2023 at 12:36 PM

DB

“ *Debbie Brown-Wynne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Debbie Brown-Wynne - May 07, 2023 at 11:00 AM

MB

“ *Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - May 07, 2023 at 07:26 AM

AS

“ *Al & Melinda Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Al & Melinda Sansbury - May 06, 2023 at 11:01 PM

AW

“ *Anna A Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



anna a williams - May 06, 2023 at 06:17 PM

PJ

“ *Pat James lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Pat James - May 06, 2023 at 05:51 PM

MF

“ *Michelle Fonteneau lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Michelle Fonteneau - May 06, 2023 at 05:08 PM

KL

“ *Nan and family, sorry to hear of your loss. What a great man of whom Hartsville will certainly miss. Praying for each of you. Lots of love Kathy Lawhon*

Kathy Lawhon - May 06, 2023 at 12:38 PM

CJ

“ *Cheryl Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



Cheryl Johnson - May 06, 2023 at 12:36 PM

DA

“ *DaveThompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Edgar Herbert Lawton Jr.*



DaveThompson - May 06, 2023 at 09:14 AM

JK

“ *Mr Edgar was a kind and gracious southern gentleman. I was honored to be his secretary at Hartsville Oil Mill. He never failed to stop and talk with me whenever I ran into him after I left the Oil Mill. My condolences to Nan and his family.*

JoFrieda Kelley - May 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM

SG

“ *Mr Edgar was a true southern gentleman. One of the finest men I have ever known. I had the pleasure of working for the Hartsville Oil Mill for many years, at both the Hartsville and Darlington offices. My sincere condolences to Mrs Nan Lawton and the entire family.*

Susan Goode - May 05, 2023 at 08:17 PM

LN

“ *My prayers will be lifting all of Mr. Lawton's family during this time and in the days to come. He was such a kind gentleman!*

Lynn Newsom - May 05, 2023 at 05:16 PM