



## Dr. John Connor Graves

January 28, 1937 - February 12, 2025

Dr. John Connor Graves, 88, beloved husband of Connie Graves, of Salem, passed away on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

Born in Detroit, MI, Dr. Graves was the son of the late John Conner Graves and Mary Louella Ainsworth. John graduated from Michigan State University with a Doctorate in Psychology. His education served to propel him through a long career in education and training on the local, state, and national levels. He worked in high schools, universities, corporations, and communities, bridging differences between people for unified solutions for improvement and change. On the national level, he worked as the training director for Rockwell International, and the UAW/GM joint training initiative. Education, especially of underserved communities, and workforce development motivated him throughout his career.

While he was known to be a hard worker, his family was equally, if not more important to him. He was a loving father and role model to his four children. Papa, as he was known to his grandchildren, will be remembered as an incredible storyteller, an inspiring conversationalist, a lifelong teacher and the best friend ever. He was a trusted, guiding light for many lives.

When he wasn't working you could find him out on his porch birdwatching, reading a book or telling one of his favorite jokes. His favorite place to be was on the water, fishing with his family and the love of his life Connie.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by his daughter: Linda Graves-Gillis; sons: John "Johnny" Graves, James Graves (Shawn) and Joel Graves (Lisa); brother: John Lee Graves (Ann); sisters: Marlana Krolicki and Shirley Ann Graves; ten grandchildren: Caitlin, Courtney, Cameron, Jordan, Avery, Zachary, Bradley and Sarah, Justice, Carson; and three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony will be Saturday February 15th at 1pm at the Keowee Key

Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, donations, may be made to American Cancer Society, [www.donate.cancer.org](http://www.donate.cancer.org) , National Wildlife Federation [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) or to the National Audubon Society, [www.act.audubon.org](http://www.act.audubon.org).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB **15**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Keowee Key Country Club  
1 Country Club Road  
Salem, SC 29676

# Tribute Wall

AN

“ I worked with John at Chrysler Corp and at Rockwell International. John was a top notch professional in his field. He was always smiling and fun to work with. He helped me move up in my career immensely. I am forever grateful for his help. My condolences to his wonderful wife Connie. We had great times together. I wish we had more. My wife Kathy and i were very sad to hear of his passing.

Al and Kathy Neumann - June 19, 2025 at 10:34 AM

LG

“ He was my father's (Gerry Garrett) best friend. The brother he never had. When they were together they always acted like two young boys. Laughing and even giggling. They were the happiest fishing. I know that's what they are doing right now. I always saw Uncle John as a special soul. Genuinely kind. A rarity today. My heart hurts for all of the family. It's a big loss. But remember he is still near.. Talk to him and you will hear him. Talk about him always and he will always be alive. Prayers and hugs. Love Laura Garrett

Laura Garrett - February 20, 2025 at 09:37 AM



“ Savory Farmhouse Gift Box was purchased for the family of Dr. John Connor Graves.



February 17, 2025 at 01:47 PM

MS

“ Melanie Sanford lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Connor Graves



Melanie Sanford - February 16, 2025 at 08:42 AM



“ Cousin John was a good man; I will always have fond memoirs of him. He could make you laugh with his stories.

February 15, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. John Connor Graves.

February 15, 2025 at 06:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Connor Graves.



February 15, 2025 at 06:40 PM

SA

“ our favorite place to be!! love you so much, rest easy papa!!



sarah - February 15, 2025 at 01:03 PM

JA

“ John & Jessica Katers and OHM Advisors purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. John Connor Graves.



John & Jessica Katers and OHM Advisors - February 14, 2025 at 02:02 PM