



## John Rowell Bennett

April 3, 1931 - February 12, 2024

John Rowell Bennett, a devoted servant of God, family and country, died peacefully Feb. 12, 2024. Born on Lookout Mountain on April 3, 1931, his life was a testimony to the enduring values of being a disciple of Christ.

After graduating from McCallie School in 1949, John continued his education at Davidson College and the University of Chattanooga. He served as a Field Artillery officer in the United States Army, where he not only mastered the art of flying L4 aircraft but also shared his expertise as an instructor.

John continued his military career in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

As a career-long salesman in the manufacturing industry, he cultivated meaningful relationships, reflecting his authentic and amiable nature and interest in others.

John's roots on Lookout Mountain ran deep. He was baptized at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church and gave his life in humble service to the church. He initially volunteered with the youth group, later served as a deacon and elder, facilitated the Fireside Sunday School class for several decades and constantly served in countless quiet ways.

Active in the local community, John was a member of the Fairyland Club, serving on the board and playing tennis with friends well into his late 80s. He will be remembered for his infectious smile, kindness, love of laughter and quick wit.

John leaves behind his beloved wife of 57 years, Laura Smartt Bennett, and is

survived by three sons: Bill (Kem) of Birmingham; David (Kingsley) of Lookout Mountain and Jim (Jami) of Birmingham, along with 9 grandchildren (Will (Abby), Betsy Moffett (Cole), Hamilton, Mae Mae, Carter, Hunt, Brooks, Read, Sims) and 1 great-grandchild (Luke). He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Florence Bennett and siblings William, Gigi, Betty and Jim.

A memorial service to celebrate John's life will be held at 12:00 pm EST (11:00 am CST) on Feb. 24 at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests gifts to LMPC's Mercy Fund ([Impc.org](http://Impc.org)).

May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Online condolences may be shared at [ryanfuneralhome.net](http://ryanfuneralhome.net)

Services provided by Ryan Funeral Home & Crematory, Trenton, GA.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **24**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church PCA  
316 North Bragg  
Lookout Mountain , TN 37350

## Memorial Service

FEB **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church PCA  
316 North Bragg  
Lookout Mountain , TN 37350

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of John Rowell Bennett.*



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February 22, 2024 at 03:17 PM



“ *M-POWER Ministries purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Rowell Bennett.*



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**M-POWER Ministries** - February 19, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ *Although my wife, Laura, and I are grieved for the sake of Laura Bennett and for their family, we rejoice that even now the saints who have gone home before us are enjoying John Bennett's joy and humor and giving spirit as all of his family, friends, and community did while he was such a wonderful physical presence in our lives. It would be difficult to overstate the light that John was in the lives of all who knew him. As I reflect on what I saw of John's life in our church I am reminded of Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.". John Bennett certainly lived out that verse and we give glory to our Father in heaven for John's life among us. Laura, we love you and welcome the opportunity to support you as you walk through this time of sadness at John's departure and joy at his going home.*

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**Lee & Laura Franks** - February 15, 2024 at 12:23 PM

LB

“ love you all, rick & ali bowers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Rowell Bennett.



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love you all, rick & ali bowers - February 15, 2024 at 12:55 AM

LB

“ love you all, rick & ali bowers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Rowell Bennett.

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love you all, rick & ali bowers - February 15, 2024 at 12:55 AM



“ I met John when I was helping to care for his friend, Bob. John visited Bob every Thursday and brought such joy to Bob and to me. He was a wonderful man who loved his family immensely. Praying for all of you 🙏❤️

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Susan Tadle - February 14, 2024 at 10:40 PM

CW

“ In 1967, the year after Flora and I were married , we moved to Kyle Avenue around the corner from the Bennetts on Florence Street , Lookout Mountain. We have been friends ever since, became friends with Laura's parents , were in Bible studies with the Smartts before they died and most recently John , have enjoyed retreats, weekends , and raising children together who have remained fast friends . I know he is celebrating being in heaven with his Savior. Catherine joins me in her love for John and Laura, She has known both Laura and John since childhood and John taught her sunday school at Lookout Pres.



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**Charlie Walldorf** - February 14, 2024 at 06:25 PM