



# John Moody Lester Sr.

APR 21, 1938 - JUN 16, 2024



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## **John Moody Lester Sr.**

APR 21, 1938 - JUN 16, 2024

**J**ohn M. Lester passed away peacefully in his Lewes, DE. home on the morning of Sunday, June 16th, 2024 at the age of 86 after a brave year-long battle with cancer. Born and raised in St. Georges, John was a native Delawarean, a loving husband, fantastic father, grandfather, and friend to many. John and Carolyn raised their family in Newark before moving to Lewes in 1990, a place he loved dearly, a place he and his young family had spent summers since 1963.

John is survived by the love of his life, Carolyn Philips Lester, his wife of 61 years, his children, Cherie Lester of Washington DC, John M. Lester Jr. of Lewes, Andrew Lester of New York City, grandchildren Emily Lester, Sarah Lester Banks, Hudson Lester, John M. Lester III, daughters-in-law Jennifer Cunningham Lester and Lorraine Lester, and his beloved cat, Dusty.

John was a prolific entrepreneur starting at a young age, working full-time until the age of 85 as owner and head architectural designer of Design Ideas, Inc., a successful design business he established and grew over 40 years ago. John was recognized as a preeminent designer throughout the state of Delaware and his award-winning architectural designs have been featured in several local and national publications.

He served as the Chairman of the City of Lewes Historic Preservation Architectural Review Commission for 23 years, was a member of the steering committee for 'Art in Bloom', a citywide initiative to bring public art to the city of Lewes, and was the recipient of the Lewes Historical Society Stewardship Award, recognized for an outstanding body of work of historic preservation and design. John restored and rebuilt many of Lewes's historic residential homes in addition to designing commercial projects including Harbour Restaurant, Raas Indian Restaurant, the Bastian Building, King's Way Professional Center, an addition to the former Lewes Public Library, and many more.

John's work was his passion. When he wasn't busy designing at the drawing board in his studio, he could be found pursuing one of his many other creative talents including abstract sculpture,



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drawing, painting, and creative writing. John's love of writing and deep fondness for New Mexico, its people, history, and landscape led him to extensively research and publish his first novel in 2017, *The Corn Singer*. John also authored a children's book, *Night Gardens*, in addition to countless short stories. John loved cycling the bike trails of Sussex County and horseback riding out West with the Comancheros, a group of great friends who enjoyed several fun adventures over recent years.

John is a graduate of Goldy-Beacom Business College in Wilmington, DE., and Philadelphia Museum College of Art in Philadelphia, PA. He studied Creative Writing at the University of Delaware, at Long Ridge Writers Group, and at Wilmington College. He was a member of The Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild.

A celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, July 11th, 2024 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church (200 2nd Street) in downtown Lewes. Visitation will occur from 10 AM - 11 AM, followed by a service, 11 AM - 12 PM, and reception in the Parish Hall at noon. The family would like to thank our amazing community of friends here in Lewes, especially our neighbors on Market Street for their love and support over the last year. It means more than we can say.

In place of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Delaware Hospice or St. Peter's Episcopal Church in John's name.

Please sign the tribute page located on this website.



# Events

**John Moody Lester Sr.**

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## Visitation

- Thursday**, July 11, 2024
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
200 2nd St, , Lewes DE 19958



## Celebration of life

- Thursday**, July 11, 2024
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
200 2nd St, , Lewes DE 19958





# Tribute Wall

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**With Love, The Kidd Family** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Lester family.



July 10 at 6:41 AM



**Sally Cunningham Hrycyk** posted:

Dear Carolyn and Family, Sending thoughts and prayers at the passing of John. May God's comfort and peace fill your hearts during this very sad time in your lives. With Love and Prayers, Sally Cunningham-Hrycyk

June 26 at 4:34 PM



**Deborah Philips** posted:

John did indeed live a rich, full life. Prayers and blessings to our cousin Carolyn and their children. The Philips Family

June 26 at 5:42 AM



**Charlotte A Bastian** lit a candle in honor of John.

Lewes has lost a memorable, kind and talented man. When Jim and I decided to build the Bastian Building he was the only person we thought would advise us and design a building in Lewes that we could be proud of. His cheerful attitude along with his design talent were much appreciated. He was a joy to work with and we had ultimate faith in his design. I know he will be missed by this community and especially by his loving family. I pray for your strength during this very difficult loss and hope you will find peace and joy in the memories you share. Charlotte A Bastian



June 25 at 4:30 PM



**Garrick Weaver** posted:

On behalf of the entire Weaver family, you are all in our thoughts. John was a beloved champion of Lewes and we especially appreciate all that he did for the Lewes Public Library, a place that held a special place in our hearts. He leaves the world a better place than he found it, through his service to his community.

June 25 at 6:24 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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