



Robert Leith Connelly, Jr.

Sept. 27, 1952 - Dec. 28, 2025

Robert Leith Connelly Jr., 73, of Connelly Springs, North Carolina passed away on December 28th, 2025. He was born on September 27th, 1952, at Grace Hospital in Morganton, North Carolina the son of Robert Leith Connelly and Miriam Dickinson Connelly. Robert is survived by his caring and gracious wife, Louise Connelly, of Connelly Springs, North Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 36 years, Deborah Crider Connelly. They were blessed with 6 children: Kristen Connelly Ellenburg (deceased) (Aaron); Mark Connelly (Rebecca); Marie Connelly de Palacios (Jose); Thomas Connelly; Rebekah Connelly Hodgson (Mark); and Amy Connelly Anstine (Evan).

Robert is also survived by three sisters: Dr. Daphne Connelly McKee Blumenthal (Dr. James A.) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Linda Connelly of Atlanta, Georgia; and Karen Connelly Rodriguez (Ivan) of Germantown, Tennessee. He graduated from Morganton High School and Wofford College in 1970 and 1975, respectively.

He was blessed with many grandchildren: Trey, Nathan, and Jacob Ellenburg; James,

Josiah, Malachi, Isaiah, and Michael Connelly; Nayelyn, Alina, and Everly Palacios; Angel, Joel, Zoe, Luke, Micah, Zara, Jeremiah, David, Aliyah, Jude, Jason, and Levi Hodgson; and Nolan, Emma, Hannah, Asher, Ethan, and Madeline Anstine.

He also leaves a number of nieces of nephews.

Robert distinguished himself as an educator and entrepreneur, and throughout his life he was admired for his keen intellect, great wisdom, quick wit, and love of family. Above all else, he will be remembered for his passionate faith, fixing his eyes heavenward as he sought every opportunity to minister and witness for Christ. And while he will be deeply missed, his humble life of selfless devotion to the Lord will continue to shine. All who loved Robert, take comfort knowing that his voice is now added to the choir of angels.

There will be a private family service on Friday, January 2nd, 2026, at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Lenoir, North Carolina, followed by a private burial at Forest Hills Cemetery in Morganton, NC. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 328 B Woodsway Ln NW, Lenoir NC 28645

Tribute Wall

Condolences from Texas to Robert's family.....especially remembering Linda, Karen & Daphne in losing their dear brother.

—Liz Connelly Jackson

Mrs. Louise, we want to express our sincere sympathies to you on the loss of your husband. May the Good Lord bless you with His Peace and Comfort during the difficult days ahead. I'm sorry that we only learned of Robert's passing, today at Mass.

—Mark and Corinne Townsend

To Daphne, Linda, and Karen. Please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of Robert. I remember all the good times he and Karen and my sister Wendy and I had playing in their big yard on Pearson Drive. My blessing to the entire family.

—Gary Coffin



—Rebekah Hodgson and family



Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss of your loved one.

—Richard Surwit and Sandra Cummings



—Ross McKee



Robert Leith Connelly Jr., you were a classmate of mine in Morganton High School back in 1970. You were always a nice guy back then. From the obit, I see you were very good for the rest of your life, hope the passing was quick. God will grab ya when you least expect it sometimes. You were very productive in your family tree, and the products of that are now plentiful. See you on the other side. Blessings for peace for the entire family.

—David L. Tubergen