



## John Anthony Gourley

January 4, 1952 - December 18, 2025

John Anthony Gourley, 73, of Danville, passed away on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Hock Family Pavilion in Durham, NC. Our beloved father has gone to be with his Lord and Savior after a courageous battle with cancer and a rapid decline in health. He passed from this earthly life surrounded by family providing love, comfort, and prayers.

John was born in Danville on January 4, 1952 to the late Charles Henry Gourley, Jr. and Virginia Frances Haymes Gourley.

John worked as a hairstylist and was the proud owner of his salon, The Hair Studio. He attended Osborne Baptist Church and Dan River Church where he worshiped faithfully, served willingly, and formed deep, meaningful friendships.

John is survived by three children, Jessica Gourley (Kristy), Laura Schoonover (Brandon), and Angela Doughty (Paul); seven grandchildren; a sister, Karen Clayton; and a brother, C. Kent Gourley (Karen). Of all his roles in life, one of his most treasured was being "Papa John" to his grandchildren, Allyson, Carter, Leah, Peyton, Luke, Katelyn, Brayden, and great-grandchild, Preston, whom he loved beyond measure.

John was preceded in death by his son, Michael John Gourley, and we take comfort in knowing they are now reunited in the presence of the Lord.

He was a man of deep faith, kindness, and genuine love for others. He was social by nature and cherished the many special friendships he formed throughout his life. His family brought him great joy and he spoke fondly of them. He enjoyed planning trips that brought the family together, creating lasting memories that we will forever cherish. He found peace in God's creation and greatly enjoyed his time outdoors, particularly on walks with his beloved dog, Cooper. A faithful servant of Jesus Christ, he lived as a testimony of love, encouraging others to serve one another, and to share in the hope and promise of eternal life.

A memorial service for John will be held at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 4:00 PM with Pastor Scott Randlett officiating. Visitation with family will follow the service at the chapel. At other times, the family will receive friends at the residence of Virginia Sanchez, 4010 Keswick Drive, Danville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to God's Storehouse, P.O. Box 48, Danville, VA 24543, or a charity of your choice.

Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes, Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Gourley family.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **23**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel  
5858 Riverside Drive  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 793-5511  
info@wrenn-yeatts.com  
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

## Receive Friends Following the Service

DEC **23** (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel  
5858 Riverside Drive  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 793-5511  
info@wrenn-yeatts.com  
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Anthony Gourley*



---

**Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes** - December 22, 2025 at 03:11 PM

CV

“ *After Virginia went into nursing, John became my hairdresser. During my appointments, he would lovingly talk about his children and later in life his grandchildren with such pride and devotion. My heart breaks for the Gourley family and yet I feel joy for the special moments in time they shared with Papa John. A loving Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Life's journey is never long enough for those who are left behind. John will be deeply missed.*  
*Carol Van Valkenburg*

---

**Carol Van Valkenburg** - December 22, 2025 at 09:33 PM

BS

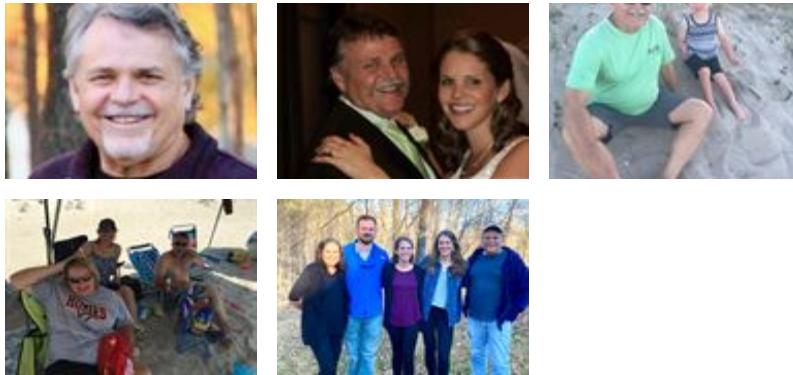
“ I have such fond memories of John, spanning the past 50 years. He was a good friend and a superb hairdresser. I babysat his daughter Jessica, and we all lived in the same neighborhood when Angela, Laura and Michael were born. It was always nice to bump into him and Virginia and catch up on our families. I can hardly remember ever seeing John without a big smile on his face. Such great memories! He will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences go out to entire families.



Beverly Shelton - December 22, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ 260 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Homes - December 22, 2025 at 02:53 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Anthony Gourley.



December 22, 2025 at 11:39 AM

LA

“ Love, Sandy and April planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Anthony Gourley.

Love, Sandy and April - December 22, 2025 at 11:39 AM

AF

“ I was friends with John for over 50 years - We were all in our early 20s and his precious Jessica was just a baby - We lived next door to John's sister Karen and we all got together on weekends and cooked burgers and played cards - wonderful memories! As years went on I moved away but we continued to stay in touch and i would see John and his family every so often when he visited Topsail or Kure Beach - He loved the NC coast - I eventually met Virginia on one of those trips and came to know their three beautiful children - John was one of those friends that i might not talk to for a while but we always picked right back up like we had just talked yesterday - I love you John and will miss you!!!

Anne M Fields - December 22, 2025 at 10:42 AM

WW

“ With love, Sophie Weddle purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Anthony Gourley.



With love, Sophie Weddle - December 20, 2025 at 08:29 PM

SB

“ You were my neighborhood friend and greatest teacher of Board games in the entire world. Me, YOU, Kent and Carol all at a table playing Monopoly for hours on end. You have always held a special place in my heart. You generously gave your carpentry skills to help Bobby build our sons a tree house. I trusted you alone to provide hair care to our entire family...in that house you completely remodeled for your Hair Studio. You will be so very much missed, Johnny (to me) God Speed. Always in my memory book and heart, Susan Bennett. Prayers to your loved ones for strength during what I KNOW is a difficult time.

---

**Susan Floyd Bennett** - December 20, 2025 at 04:58 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Anthony Gourley.



---

December 20, 2025 at 04:35 PM

JG

“ John was a kind and loving person. I thought a lot of him and always enjoyed chatting with him given the opportunity. Condolences to his family.

---

**Jo Ann Grainger** - December 20, 2025 at 04:15 PM

BS

“ Prayers for all the family. John and I spent a couple of summers walking and riding bikes all over Danville when we were kids. See you in Heaven one day with Uncle Charley and Aunt Frances and all the rest of the family.. Rest in Peace Cousin!

---

**Bill Saunders** - December 20, 2025 at 02:19 PM

DD

“ So very very sorry for your loss...RIP TILL WE MEET AGAIN LOVE YOU..

Donald Dockery - December 20, 2025 at 09:21 AM

BB

“ I grew up with John . So sorry to hear this. Prayers for the family.  
Bonnie Rigney Byrd

Bonnie Byrd - December 20, 2025 at 09:00 AM

CB

“ Christina Brown lit a candle in memory of  
John Anthony Gourley



Christina Brown - December 20, 2025 at 08:19 AM

GC

“ Praying for you all at this difficult time. May  
the Lord bring you peace and comfort during  
this time.



Gretchen Campbell - December 20, 2025 at 05:42 AM

SM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my sympathy.

Suzanne Mundy - December 19, 2025 at 09:55 PM

DH

“ My Deepest Sympathy 🙏



Deborah S. Henderdon - December 19, 2025 at 08:36 PM

KR

“ John will certain be missed. He cut my hair for years! He and I stayed in touch after he retired! It was always nice talking to him! May he rest in peace I will be praying for each of you in the days ahead and that you all find comfort in knowing that he is in heaven!



kim riddle - December 19, 2025 at 08:18 PM

GR

“ Sending prayers and lots of love to all John's family. He was a good friend and he will be missed by all who knew him. Gloria Reynolds



Gloria Reynolds - December 19, 2025 at 06:05 PM

KT

“ So sad to hear of John's passing. He was a great guy and will be miss by all that knew and loved him. My thoughts and prayers go out to The Gourley family during this difficult time.



Kristie Elliott Trent - December 19, 2025 at 03:37 PM