



William Carter Waters

December 12, 1929 - March 29, 2011

Dr. William C. Waters III

“Waters died. Stethoscope & fiddle for sale.”

William Carter Waters III, MD, MACP, well-known Atlanta physician and Newnan, GA, resident died Tuesday, March 29, 2011 of complications from prostate cancer. He was 81 years of age. Dr. Waters practiced internal medicine and nephrology for 44 years in the Atlanta area. He was an Atlanta native and was both the son and father of Atlanta internists. After he and Mrs. Waters moved to Newnan in September 2007, he began writing weekly medical columns for The Times-Herald and published them in three small books called “The Doctor Is In.”

As a faculty member of Emory Medical School in the 1960s he was instrumental in the development of the chronic renal dialysis (artificial kidney) program in Atlanta and was nephrology team leader of the first kidney transplant program in the Southeast.

A graduate of Emory Medical School, he practiced from 1970 until his retirement in 2002 in the Piedmont Hospital complex, together with Dr. Charles E. Harrison Jr., and from 1989 to 2002 with his son, Dr. Williams C. Waters IV. He was for seven years Chairman of Internal Medicine at Piedmont and for 20 years a member of the Governing Board. He was chairman of the Piedmont Board from 1992 to 1995.

Dr. Waters was governor for Georgia of the American College of Physicians from 1980-84 and in 1996 was elected a Master of American College of Physicians, a degree carried by only some 300 physicians in the U.S. and some eight doctors in Georgia's history.

As first a full-time faculty member and later as part of the volunteer faculty of Emory University School of Medicine, Dr. Waters continued to teach medical students and residents throughout his life. He made rounds with residents at Grady Memorial Hospital in the 1970s and '80s, had one or more senior medical students as clinical clerks in his office continuously from 1962 to 1992, and gave lectures to freshman and sophomore medical students. He helped originate the Problem-Based Learning program and served as a mentor in these popular small-session seminars. The Emory faculty appointed him to a variety of groups, including two search committees for Dean of the medical school.

In the 1960s Dr. Waters had collaborated with Dr. William Schwartz of Boston's Tufts Medical School in the first clinical description of a condition known as spontaneous lactic acidosis, a potentially deadly disturbance of body chemistry. He later wrote some 35 papers on various internal medical and nephrology topics, and contributed chapters to the well-known cardiology textbook, "The Heart," edited by Drs., Willis Hurst and Bruce Logue.

He was widely regarded as an expert diagnostician and often saw patients with difficult problems referred by physicians throughout the Southeast. In 1990 he received the first Internist-Laureate award from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Waters was a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Medical Association of Atlanta, and the Medical Association of Georgia, of whose Board he was a member for 14 years. Other memberships included the American Society of Nephrology, the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine, the Southeastern Clinical Club, and the Atlanta Clinical Society. He was board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine as well as the American

Board of Nephrology and contributed questions for their regular examinations. He was cited in several publications identifying Best Doctors in America and in Atlanta. Within the last few years he helped create the Internal Medical Division of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Atlanta, recruiting five other internists to serve the general medical needs of the many MS patients at the center. In March 2007 Piedmont Hospital opened the Waters Pavilion, a floor of executive suites financed by donors, including several of Dr. Waters' patients. In February 2007, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Georgia Hospital Association for his various achievements in the healthcare area.

He played the violin as an avocation and performed in a number of groups, including the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Academy of Music Adult Ensemble, the Northside United Methodist Church Orchestra, and the Atlanta Lawyers Orchestra. He participated in the "Unmanageable Care," a mainly doctor-combo dedicated to old-time music.

Writing for the general public became a passion in his later life, and his book, "The Grand Disguise," which characterized the problems and solutions for medicine, received wide distribution and attention from many sectors, including such authorities as economist Milton Friedman and the late U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell. He also produced a series of white papers, novels and sketches, many of which have not been publicly circulated, and was working on others. In fall of 2005 he published a novel, "Before I Sleep," detailing the activities and thoughts of an internist during 24 hours on call. His latest book, "Two Days That Ruined Your Health Care," has sold some 17,000 copies.

He was a member of Northside United Methodist Church and a Board member of The Piedmont Foundation, chairman of the Board of Visitors of Piedmont, and board member of the Davies Library and the Vinings Historic Preservation Society. He was a member of the Piedmont Driving Club and the Atlanta Country Club.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sarah Ann Bankston Waters (herself a fifth-generation Atlantan); a son, Dr. William C. Waters IV, and his wife Teresa, of Carrollton; and a daughter, Sarah Walker Waters McEntire, and her husband, Dennis, of Newnan; two grandchildren, Sarah Elizabeth McEntire Williams and her husband Clay, and William Clay McEntire; nephews, James Walker Bankston Jr., Richard D. Waters and Robert D. Bankston; and nieces, Jacqueline Ann Johnston and Nancy Bailey Waters.

Pallbearers for the service will be, Mr. Robert Teller, Mr. John Goodrum, Dr. Robert Pitts, Mr. Luther H. Randall III, Dr. Charles E. Harrison, Mr. J. Alston Thompson, Dr. Frederick Hardin, Mr. Shouky Shaheen, Mr. Jarrett Davis, Dr. Spencer Brewer, and Mr. Doug Kees. Honorary Pallbearers will be, Dr. Grady Clinkscales Jr. , Dr. John Drummond, Dr. Perry Ballard Jr., Dr. Earnest Barron, Mr. John Duggan, Mr. Harold Hammond, Mr. Richard Hubbard, Dr. David Lowance, Dr. Jeff Nugent, Dr. Bill Scaljon, Mr. Scott Wilson, and Mr. Harry Rivers.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.mckoon.com .

Friends will be welcomed to the Waters' home Friday evening April 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. The service will be held on Saturday, April 2, at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Newnan with Rev. Harry Barrow & Dr. Med Roach officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newnan. Those wishing to make a contribution to Tanner Hospice Care, 710 Dixie St., Carrollton, GA 30117 or to Piedmont Hospital for the Waters Pavilion, 1968 Peachtree Rd., NW , Atlanta, GA 30309.

McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Family Residence

Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Newnan First United Methodist Church
33 Greenville Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

PP

“ I was saddened to read about the loss of Dr. Waters. I only stumbled across this as I was looking for other information. Dr. Waters was my doctor for a number of years before he retired from his Piedmont Office. I was always enjoyed seeing him and he was a kind, gentle and tremendous individual. I apologize for the delay in getting this message to you as I was unaware of your loss.

Pete Papadopoulos - November 21, 2011 at 12:07 AM

KC

“ Very true! Makes a change to see someone spell it out like that. :)

KcKmlWtXoZmgLqkn - May 03, 2011 at 05:59 PM

JD

“ Dear Sara Ann and family, we were so sorry to miss Bill's service as we were out of town. I have no address for you so hope you get this. I loved Bill so much. When he retired I went into a depression. He had been my doctor for so many years I just couldn't imagine going to anyone else. There was no one else like him. He had the greatest sense of humor and at the same time was compassionate and caring. He was just a great, great person and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Dave and I send our love to you and yours . Fondly, Joan

Joan and Dave Davis - April 26, 2011 at 07:09 PM

SJ

“ Just want you to know that you have been in our thoughts so much lately. So sorry we were out of town during the visitation and funeral of Dr. Waters services. You are special friends and we know you how sad it is to lose a parent. Please accept our sympathy and love.

Sam and Betty Jones - April 08, 2011 at 08:55 PM

KR

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of you. Dr. Waters' contributions to the Atlanta community will be missed by all of us at Piedmont. You are all in our thoughts.*

Karen Roper - April 07, 2011 at 10:41 PM

BC

“ *What a pleasure it was to know Dr. Waters. I had the honor of playing violin with him in the Georgia Academy of Music Adult Ensemble. He was always kind, happy, and hilarious. He will also be missed greatly as part of our Piedmont Family. My sincere condolences go out to his family.*

Bernice Cohen - April 04, 2011 at 10:17 AM

FA

“ *I saw Dr. Waters' obituary on the Marist web site. I was about 10 years behind Dr. Waters at Marist, but I would have loved to had the pleasure of knowing him. One of my favorite jokes is the first line of his obit. I have been waiting for years for someone with a sense of humor to do this. I have instructed my heirs to open my obit with "Frank Albert shoved off yesterday". I'm sorry for your loss; I know he was a wonderful person.*

Frank Albert - April 03, 2011 at 08:46 PM

PH

“ Dear Sarah Ann and Family, Sincerest condolences wirh Bill's passing. I celebrate Bill's life every day, he meant so much to me. Only with his encouragement and support were we able to develop Sixty Plus at Piedmont. He was a role model for all of us and was always available for a "curbside consult" about any and all matter of things including the medical care of our patients. The collegial atmosphere he engendered at Piedmont by his calm and open minded attitude toward all things made Piedmont a great place to practice the "art" of medicine he so dearly loved.

Paul Herd - April 02, 2011 at 07:06 AM

DK

“ Dear Sarah and family, we are so grieved and saddened to learn of Bill's passing in the paper. I wish I knew your address or phone number--so this will have to do. We love you both and enjoyed every day of our little neighborhood on Grove Gate Lane. Bill was the epitome of what a doctor should be--I was rather envious of his patients:) Please know that we have missed you these past few years and cherish our friendship with fond memories. Much love and deepest, heartfelt sympathy, Debbie and Paul Koehler

Debbie & Paul Koehler - April 01, 2011 at 04:40 PM

TS

“ Mrs. Waters and family. As a Piedmont nurse I so enjoyed working with Dr. Waters. He was always kind, encouraging and the best doctor a patient could want. I especially enjoyed the times he came and played his 'fiddle' for the older adults on the Extended Care Unit. My prayers and thoughts are with you. Theresa Stepp

Theresa Stepp - April 01, 2011 at 11:27 AM

JC

“ My condolences to the family...I will always remember Dr. Waters for his committment to excellence, his dedication to his patients and his unending desire to teach others. I have been a nurse at Piedmont since the 80's...Dr. Waters was always upbeat, professional and eager to contribute his knowledge and energy for the good of those around him. May God bless you and comfort you at this time.

Julie Churchman - April 01, 2011 at 05:10 AM

SJ

“ Dennis and Sally, Just want you to know that you are in our thoughts. We will be out of town on Saturday, but we will be thinking about you. With sincere sympathy, Sam and Betty

Sam and Betty Jones - March 31, 2011 at 09:24 PM

JC

“ Although I did not know Dr. Waters personally, I am one of many who enjoyed and learned from his articles in the Times-Herald. I am sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Janet Conley

Janet Conley - March 31, 2011 at 06:00 PM

PS

“ With deep regret on the passing of Billy; with great joy of having known him all these years. His ability in so many things was only surpassed by his knack for making everyone feel special in his presents. He will be missed.

Peter Starr - March 31, 2011 at 05:07 PM

DS

“ *The world will be a lesser place without “Uncle Billy”. He wasn’t really our Uncle but, we wanted him to be... just by the way he made us feel. God bless you all, Dean Starr (Son of the late David Homer Starr)*

Dean Starr - March 31, 2011 at 02:01 PM

DM

“ *No one in Medicine has had a greater impact on me than Dr. Bill Waters. I have been fortunate to have personally enjoyed his remarkable wisdom, warmth and humor. I will miss him greatly.*

David E Dalrymple, MD - March 31, 2011 at 01:59 PM

CW

“ *I am so saddened to hear of Bill's passing. My deepest condolences to Sarah Ann, Billy, and Sally. Bill was a brilliant physician and good friend, and inspired me to be a better doctor.*

Carol Wiggins - March 31, 2011 at 11:26 AM

NE

“ *Dr. Waters was an extraordinary gentleman who truly exhibited the best qualities one could hope to attain in his lifetime. I consider it a privilege to have known him and will always remember his many contributions and his engagingly infectious personality. My sympathy is extended to his family.*

Neil - March 31, 2011 at 10:34 AM

FH

“ Deeply saddened to learn of Bill’s death. I attended his wedding 61 years ago. He was a classmate at Marist and later my doctor. His son, Bill IV, was my doctor. His brother Richard was a good friend of my brother Charles and me. I offered Mass for Bill this morning.
Father Jim Harrison.

Father Jim Harrison - March 31, 2011 at 10:05 AM

HI

“ What a fine gentleman, a wonderful doctor and a good friend. Bill kept me going for 35 years before his retirement and I appreciate every visit and every conversation we had. God Bless his family.

Harry Ivey - March 31, 2011 at 09:53 AM

SH

“ I will miss your smile and your wit that you always showed me. As your mailman here in Newnan I felt a special bond with him. I will miss his emails that he sent me and the excitement of finding one he might like and then waiting on his response. I will buy his fiddle!!!
heave got lucky yesterday!

Scott Horne - March 31, 2011 at 07:52 AM

JS

“ I am so Happy that I had these years knowing/working with him! A good Man with a Great Family! Funny...can't say enough about that!!! "What's ya know good" Still can't figure it out :-)... I will always remember that! He and Dr. Harrison let a Yankee into their practice.
Thank You. God Bless to Him and his Family!!!

Jane Smith - March 30, 2011 at 07:34 PM

DK

“ Dearest Sarah Ann & Family: How very sad we are to lose our dear friend. His place in our life, especially that of Doug & Musicology is an empty chair that will never be filled. Thank you so much for sharing him with us and always making us feel welcome in your home. We hope our love for you will help ease your loss and the memory of how much he meant to this community will bring comfort to you and your family in the days to come. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you. Doug & Linda Kees

Doug & Linda Kees - March 30, 2011 at 10:12 AM

PC

“ Sarah Ann, Billy & Teresa, Sally & Dennis, Melissa & Clay, & HOLLY- WOOD CLAY": I was awakened this AM with news from Piedmont that your beloved (Husb., Dad, & GranDad) had passed away. I think all of you know how much I loved him, as he was my mentor in ICU, Head of the Dialysis Program, physician, friend and my precocious "Uncle Bill". There are many accolades due this gifted man, and I wish I could be with him to tell him just once more I much I loved him. Sarah Ann, you were the love of his life and the one who made his career so spectacular! I have many memories of his stories of his family. May GOD bless & keep all of you

Peggy Croft - March 29, 2011 at 08:15 PM

PC

“ (continued from previous message) special angel. Love to all of you. Sarah Ann and family: I will plan to attend the funeral services on Saturday.

Peggy Croft - March 29, 2011 at 07:50 PM

PW

“ *Sorry for your loss. God promises at John 5:28,29 all those in the memorial tombs will come out to a resurrection. God will wipe away every tear, and death will be no more. Neither will pain or sorrow, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4) I pray you will find comfort in these scriptures.*

Pauline and William - March 29, 2011 at 04:49 PM