



Dr. Trevor George Williams

April 9, 1924 - January 31, 2020

Trevor George Williams, MD, 95, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, January 31, 2020 at Novant Health Medical Center in Salisbury. Dr. Williams was born in Stirling, New Jersey, on April 9, 1924 to Rev. George Owen Williams and Edith Kiss Williams, who were English immigrants. Dr. Williams attended a two-room school through the early grades and later finished high school in Flemington, NJ. He attended Maryville College in Maryville, TN, for 2 years before enlisting in the Navy College Training Program at Carson Newman College in Morristown, TN. Through that program, he entered the University of Georgia School of Medicine, in Augusta, GA. After his second year, he married Miss Jean Messer. Following graduation, he enrolled in an internship at Jersey City Medical Center, New Jersey. After one year, he was activated in Navy training as a photo fluoroscopic officer for tuberculosis elimination in Navy personnel. He also served in the Dispensary for Navy personnel and civilian family members. After discharge from the Navy, he went to Park View Hospital in Rocky Mount, NC, to complete his medical training in a surgical residency and obtained his license to practice in North Carolina. With the help of his father-in-law, he bought a medical practice in Forest City, NC. After the Korean Armistice, there was an active recall of physicians, and Dr. Williams reported to duty and trained as a Naval flight officer. He was attached to a Marine unit and stationed on the east coast. Upon release, he returned to his medical practice in Forest City.

After 10 years of private practice, Dr. Williams obtained a position as a Psychiatric resident, and studied under Dr. Eugene McCraney, Department of Psychiatry, University of Georgia School of Medicine. After the three-year program, Dr. Williams returned to Rutherford County, NC, and opened a mental health center. He was subsequently made Western Regional Director of North Carolina Mental Health; later, the Director of Broughton Hospital in Morganton, NC, was added to his job description. A sudden shift in politics and drop in state funding led him to the Mental Health Center in Salisbury, NC. Following his retirement from the Mental Health Center in Salisbury, he worked part-time in the Mental Health Center in Statesville, NC, until his total retirement at the end of 1999.

While he was in Salisbury, Dr. Williams took up wood-carving and gave many of his carvings to family members, First Presbyterian Church, Hood Seminary, and others. He enjoyed dancing with Jean, reading, teaching, Kiwanis, group studies, and traveling with Gail.

Following the death of his wife of 62 years and while living at Trinity Oaks, he met his second wife Dr. Gail Hounshell, at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, where they both were members. She joined him at Trinity Oaks and they enjoyed a happy marriage of eight years.

In addition to Dr. Gail Hounshell, Dr. Williams is survived by his 3 children Mrs. Eugenia W. Peskoe, Mr. Robert T. Williams (Zan), and Mrs. Deborah W. Messinger (Dwight); 7 grandchildren Brad, Amy, Sarah, Clay, Curt, Trevor, and John; and 7 great-grandchildren Avery, Emerson, Eleanor, Anna Claire, Catherine, George, and Henry.

In addition to his parents and first wife, he was preceded in death by a sister, Gwyn Williams McKee and son-in-law, Dr. Stanley Peskoe.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 3, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church. A reception will follow in Lewis Hall.

There will be a private inurnment.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 308 West Fisher Street, Salisbury, NC 27014 or Hood Theological

Seminary, 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
308 W. Fisher St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Reception

FEB 3. 2:30 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
308 W. Fisher St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

LN

“ *Eugenia, Robert, Deborah - So sorry to hear about your dad. I have so many fond memories of the good times I had at your house in Forest City with him and your whole family. Prayers.*

Linda Newman - February 04, 2020 at 03:56 PM

MT

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Williams. I remember Eugenia from high school. I met Dr. Williams once, in 1974 when he offered me a job at Broughton Hospital when I was finishing my doctoral program. He seemed to me to be a very caring psychiatrist (something that isn't always the case nowadays). He was much admired, and rightfully so.*

*Marshall Tessnear
Blacksburg, VA*

Marshall D. Tessnear - February 03, 2020 at 03:06 PM

MD

“ *Eugenia, Robert, Deborah & All Family, please accept my Sincere Sympathy and Prayers during this time. I always loved and admired your Dad. He was a truly great man, doctor and friend to all. May God's Hand of Comfort be with you in the days ahead!* 🙏🏻✝️🙏🏻

Marianne Wall Denney - February 03, 2020 at 01:41 PM

DO

“ *Dottie and Glenn Thomason have treasured the friendship of Trevor and Gail for four years, as well as their wit, wisdom, genuine faith, and intimate caring and sharing. Trevor's artistic talents and vivid expressions of Christian symbolism will hopefully continue to speak for centuries. We honor those who enabled this generous spirit to reach outward and welcome inward, with grace and humility as long as God gave him life.*

dottiethomason@gmail.com - February 02, 2020 at 07:49 PM

SM

“ When I heard the news about Dr. Williams this morning I could hardly take it in. I am so sad to know he is gone and my heart goes out to all of you.

Adults rarely realize the effect they have on children, but I am SO grateful for the positive and steadying influence Dr. Williams had in my life, especially in the early years. Next to my own father, I have admired Dr. Williams more than any other man I've ever known.

My childhood memories are filled with times spent with Jean and Dr. Williams and the kids at the house, at church, at the beach, at the lake in White Pine and in Tryon (that curvy road!). Sometimes Mama would tell us we were going to “Trevor's office” for a chat, but we always ending up getting a shot! He was a good boss when I worked for him at the mental health center one summer, and he even drove me to Raleigh for one of my first job interviews after college.

Daddy thought Dr. Williams was the smartest person he had ever known and I, too, admired his powerful intelligence, his integrity and his quick smile. His very intense and unwavering gaze could be a bit scary sometimes, but he usually had a twinkle in his eye.

Through the years, I went to Dr. Williams for advice and he taught me to take things as they come and to see the humor in situations. He never talked down to me or dismissed me and that meant a great deal when I was young. During the last few years, I have also enjoyed keeping in touch with him via the occasional old-fashioned letter.

Despite the fact that he and Jean left Forest City many years ago, they have never left the hearts of the McBrayer family. Dr. Williams has been a constant benevolent presence for us all for more than 60 years and we will truly miss him.

Much love,

Susan McBrayer
Atlanta, GA

Susan McBrayer - February 02, 2020 at 11:43 AM

RH

I went to school with Robert, and I thought it lot of him and Dr. Williams. I remember them with fondness. My dad built Dr. William's house in Forest City

Ralph Haulk - February 03, 2020 at 03:46 PM

DR

When I practiced as a Physician Assistant met and talked to Trevor several times. He came across as such a nice sociable man. I'm so sorry for you losing him.

Dick Richards - February 06, 2020 at 10:31 AM

GH

He treasured your letters, Susan. I'm grateful to finally meet you in person.

Gail Hounshell - February 06, 2020 at 10:09 PM