



## Dr. John Daniel Thompson, Sr.

January 11, 2017

Obituary for John Daniel Thompson, Sr.

John Daniel Thompson, Sr. went home to be with our Lord on January 11, 2017. He was 89. Dr. Thompson was born on July 10, 1927, in Plains, Georgia, to Mildred Marie Dykes Thompson and Dr. John Barkwell Thompson. Soon after his birth, the family moved to Columbus, Georgia, and welcomed a daughter, Sue Marie Thompson Turner, who preceded him in death.

As the son of an Emory University educated physician, Dr. Thompson was fascinated by the field of medicine at an early age, so much so, that he earned the nickname "Doc" from his elementary school classmates, as he would "diagnose" their illnesses during recess. After graduating from The Baylor School in Chattanooga in 1944, Dr. Thompson began his long association with Emory as an undergraduate student, earning his bachelor and Doctor of Medicine degrees in 1948 and 1951, respectively. He completed his internship and residencies in gynecology and obstetrics and pathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and later served on the medical faculty at John Hopkins and Louisiana State University. He returned to Emory in 1959 as an associate professor, and just two years later, was named chairman of the department following the unexpected death of Dr. John Cross. At age 34, he was the youngest chairman of any GYN/OB department in the United States at that time.

For the next 25 years, and for 10 years after retiring as Chairman, Dr. Thompson devoted his life, skills and energies to the development of

academic gynecology and obstetrics at Emory, the training of young men and women in that discipline, the improvement of reproductive healthcare in the Southeastern United States, the teaching of gynecology and obstetrics to thousands of medical students, residents, and fellows, and the provision of exemplary medical care to patients. Several generations of medical residents graduated from his training program with a concrete definition and example of professional excellence. More clearly than any other gynecologic leader, he encouraged all physicians to accept the health problems of the community, the state and the region as their own, and to work towards their solutions.

During his professional career, Dr. Thompson created many successful plans, projects, and programs. Among the most notable, and often copied, were the Resident Research Projects and Annual Resident Research Day Programs.

Both celebrated 50 years in 2016. In 1987, the Emory GYN/OB Department decided to honor Dr. Thompson by combining the two as the John D.

Thompson Resident Research Day Program. Dr. Thompson was further honored by Emory University as Professor Emeritus in January 1996.

Dr. Thompson co-edited three editions of TeLinde's Operative Gynecology, which is regarded as the leading textbook in the field world-wide, served as president of the Georgia OB/GYN Society, served on the State Board of Medical Examiners, and as a Board Examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, among many other professional associations and accolades. In August 2016, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recognized his immense contribution to the field by awarding him the Luella Klein Lifetime Achievement Award.

During nearly 50 years as a physician, his professional life was guided by his closely-held personal belief that "The quality of human reproduction is the most important thing in the world. If we cannot get that right, then nothing else matters." He especially enjoyed the challenges of treating gynecologic patients with difficult, special, and unusual problems sent to him from many parts of this country, and providing proper care for indigent patients.

An avid gardener, sailor, and golfer, Dr. Thompson maintained all of those

activities well into his retirement years. On the golf course, Dr. Thompson scored two holes in one at Royal Lakes Golf Course playing with his favorite group, "The Sunshine Boys." As the skipper of the Brer Rabbit, Dr. Thompson enjoyed watching the sunset on Lake Lanier and racing her against other sailors at the University Yacht Club. A lifelong learner, Dr. Thompson earned a Master Gardener certificate and grew several crops, the produce of which he donated to Good News at Noon in Gainesville. While it was clear that the Atlanta Braves were his favorite team, Dr. Thompson was an avid supporter of any sports team from Georgia: the Hawks, Falcons, Georgia, and Georgia Tech.

"Papa Doc" as he was nicknamed by his grandchildren, will be greatly missed by his friends and family. He is survived by his children, John, Millie, Bo, Jimmy, and Daniel, five grandchildren, and his Scottish Terriers, Chipper and McCloud.

Memorial services will be held in the Bulloch Chapel at The University Yacht Club in Flowery Branch on Saturday, January 14th at noon with a reception to follow and also at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the Emory University campus in Atlanta on Saturday, January 21st at 11 AM where the family will also receive visitors in the Church Parlor in the Church School Building starting at 10 AM.

The family would like to thank his medical team and their staff for their expert and compassionate care: Dr. Jonathan Masor, Dr. Andre Kallab, Dr. Robert Neuman, Dr. Paul Chenard, Dr. Prashant Amin, Dr. Laurence Sperling, and Dr. Robert Guyton. The family is also grateful to Angela with Northeast Georgia Hospice, and Warren, Simone, Jennifer, and Kevin with Home Care Matters for their dedication to Dr. Thompson's care and comfort.

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Home, Eagle Ranch; Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, or the charity of your choice.

To express condolences, please sign our online guest book at [www.flaniganfuneralhome.com](http://www.flaniganfuneralhome.com). Arrangements By: Junior E. Flanigan of Flanigan Funeral Home and Crematory, Buford, GA (770) 932-1133.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. John Daniel Thompson, Sr.*

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November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Please accept my condolences for the loss of Dr. Thompson. May God help you to bear the burden of your grief during this difficult time. (Psalm 55:22) Warm Regards, Kay*

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**K. Banks** - January 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dan I appreciate your contributions to my education and maturation. Our condolences to your family. Willis and Pattie Sherrer*

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**C. Willis Sherrer, M.D.** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Family of Dr. John D. Thompson, MD*

*As a Grady-Emory resident from 1969-1973 and then into private practice at Northside Hospital from 1972- present I to convey my feelings of grief to the family of Dr. T.*

*His leadership of the Gyn-Ob department at Grady all of these years has produced an incredible number of physicians who practice our specialty. There are too many programs he created to mention them all but certainly the Resident Research program which saw its 50th anniversary and which I was proud to have won the Emory chair for first place in June 1972 was an event in my life that meant a great deal to me and promoted my private practice career.*

*Dr. T made us all better physicians than we possible every thought was possible. His concern for us to go out into our community and just excel in the quality of our care but more importantly gave us a sense of responsibility towards our patients. He instilled in us to respect women*

*and to promote women's rights issues as I have been fortunate to have been able to carry out in my association with my involvement with Planned Parenthood as I always felt was a mandate our profession should require.*

*I still recall the phone call in November 1972 as I had just entered private practice that October 1st requesting that I travel to Denver and enroll in an Ultrasound fellowship with a view towards opening the very first Ultrasound laboratory at CWL hospital in the South. He had received a bequeath from one of his patients and he had the foresight to want to*

*establish this novel modality to help with the diagnosis of both Gyn and OB patients. I ran that program for some 2 years whilst trying to establish a private practice with no remuneration just based upon his confidence that I could succeed. I was honored to have been called into service as a payback to him for his oversight and mentoring of my Gyn-Ob education.*

*I shall be ever grateful for his guidance and assistance in making me a better physician and person. He mentored all of us but I always felt a special bond with him. His contributions to our*

*specialty are legion and he will be missed but never forgotten by us all.*

*My best wishes to his family and God bless.*

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**Joel S. Engel, MD, FACOG** - January 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ ENJOYED GOLF WITH YOU VERY MUCH. WE HAVE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES.  
YOU HAD A WONDERFUL LIVE. GREAT KNOWING YOU. KG

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**Kim Gabrels** - January 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ I got to meet "Dr. T" after he retired and moved to Royal Lakes. Dr. Thompson was always one of our favorite homeowners. He often came and visited us at the sales office telling us stories about himself, gardening and sailing around St. John. My deepest sympathy to his family. It was an honor to have known him.

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**Susan Godbee** - January 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ With our deepest sympathy,

*John and Martha Rock*

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**John and Martha Rock** - January 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I wish to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to the family. Words alone cannot ease the pain when grieving the loss of a love one. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3-4 states, "And he(GOD) will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away". May God give you comfort in your loving memories and in His promise that soon we will never experience losing our love ones we will be able to see them again once they are resurrected John 5:28-29. May these scriptures bring comfort and calmness of heart to you during the difficult days ahead.

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**The Rivers Family** - January 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Please accept my most sincere condolence for Dr. Thompson's family. The period leading up to his passing has been long and difficult for you, and we share your grief in his loss. Ever thankful for people like Dr. Thompson, who lend themselves wholly to the service of others, we are all better because of his life, and somehow diminished in his passing. Peace to you in this difficult time.

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**Jeff Boggan** - January 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Doc - The Sunshine Boys will miss you and your contributions to our group. You were one of our first leaders and organizers and we will forever honor your contributions to us by placing a plaque in your honor on the Memorial Bridge going to the 9th green in early February. Rest well old friend - The Sunshine Boys.

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**Ron Marler** - January 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ If it wasn't for Dr. Thompson's exceptional surgical skills, I wouldn't have been able to have my one, beautiful and perfect child. I am forever grateful for his compassion and devotion to me as his patient. He was truly the best doctor I've ever known.

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**Julia Fazlollah** - January 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ We love you Dr. Dan. You have afforded us many happy moments at UYC.

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**Cheryl Dukes/Don Dukes** - January 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

VR

“ I remember being so nervous when my time finally came to first assist Dr. John Thompson.  
I like many of you who operated with him slept little the night before but the adrenaline that was flowing kept me wide awake. At the end of the surgery as we were preparing to round, he said something to me I have never forgotten, he said " you have your eyes on the prize, don't ever look away".  
I didn't understand then but over the years I have taken it to mean to stay focused on excellence.  
I have tried to do that and I know that my commitment is firmly based on the excellence and respect he showed to every patient he was honored to care for.  
Farewell to a great mentor.  
Your presence made a difference in the lives of so many.  
Vmr

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**Valerie Montgomery Rice** - January 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *It is hard for me to image Dr Thompson, the institution, is no longer with us. He trained so many of us, that if you are an OB/GYN in Atlanta, you were either trained by him or work with someone who was.*

*In addition to the training were his words of wisdom, his aphorisms, carefully posted in the residents area on the Gyn ward at Grady. Some have stuck with me to this day and I teach them to new generations of residents:*

*Set a pace in surgery.*

*The finer the suture, the finer the surgeon.*

*And the best one, which applies to life in general, not just gyn:*

*A difference, in order to be a difference, must make a difference!*

*RIP Dan.*

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**Joseph Tate** - January 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Dr. Dan.  
I've known you close to 17 years at UYC.  
You are of the Greatest Generation!  
Fairwell My Old Friend!  
BB*

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**BB** - January 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Dr. Dan.*

*I've known you close to 17 years at UYC.*

*You are of the Greatest Generation!*

*Fairwell My Old Friend!*

*BB*

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**BB** - January 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM