

Dr. Horace Clement Watkins III (1939 - 2019)

Horace Clement Watkins, III, known to all as "Bubba" from an early age, departed this life peacefully after a short illness on Thursday, May 16, 2019. Born October 7, 1939 in Quitman, Mississippi he was the son of Horace C. Watkins, Jr. and Florrie Caldwell Watkins. Bubba graduated from Quitman High School in 1957 and attended the University of Mississippi. At Ole Miss, he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He graduated from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1964, following his father, uncle and grandfather into the medical profession. After medical school he entered a one year internship at the Mobile General, in Mobile, Alabama, where he met and married, his wife, Paula Macpherson. He served his country in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Captain. Upon fulfilling his service in 1967 he returned to Jackson, Mississippi where he completed his residency in Urology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He was a Board Certified Urologist and was named a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. After residency, he and his family moved to Laurel, Mississippi in 1971. He entered private medical practice until his retirement in 2008. He was highly regarded for his skills as a physician, his sense of humor, and his caring, gentle bedside manner. In Laurel he served as Medical Staff President at South Central Regional Medical Center, was active on the vestry at St. John's Episcopal Church, served on the Board of Directors for St. John's Day School and volunteered his time and talents for numerous local charities and events. He retired to Battles Wharf, Alabama where he and his family had spent most of their summers prior to his retirement. He was an avid fisherman, enjoyed hunting and always looked forward to the wonderful sunsets on Mobile Bay. He was well known for his kindness, hospitality, storytelling and being an outstanding cook. Nothing made him happier than to be surrounded by family and friends over a good meal, whether around the table or on the wharf. Dr. Watkins was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, James Caldwell Watkins (Kathy) of Quitman, Mississippi. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Paula Macpherson Watkins, three sons, James F. Watkins (Lissa), Paul A. M. Watkins (Kathryn), and Christopher C. Watkins (Sarah), his sister Martha Ruth Watkins of Brandon, Mississippi, and six grandchildren, Austin, Will, Kate, Francis, Macpherson, and Mary Mac, and numerous nieces and nephews. Bubba was a loving and devoted husband. He was a patient father who served as an outstanding example of kindness, responsibility, and hard work to his sons. He was a joyful grandfather who looked forward to, and reveled in, the time he spent with his grandchildren. A wonderful gentleman and friend, he will be greatly missed by all who had the chance to know him. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile, Alabama on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Noon. The family will receive visitors in the Chapter House before the service starting at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to The Christ Church Cathedral Foundation, 115 South Conception Street, Mobile, AL 36602, The Thomas Hospital Foundation, Post Office Box 929, Fairhope, AL 36533, or to The University of Mississippi Medical Center, 2500 N. State Street, Room U013, Jackson, MS 39216-4505.

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