



Dr. Frank Emerson Jones III

June 10, 1934 - August 24, 2020

Jones, Frank E. III

Died peacefully in his sleep on August 24, 2020; age 86. Son of the late Dr. Frank Emerson Jones, Jr., of Merigold, MS and Madeline Victoria Jackson of White House, TN. Survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, the former Audrey Wojcik, by his children, of whom he was so very proud, Catherine Ann (Hurt), Ann Elizabeth (Marshall), Daniel Fuller Jones, and Patricia Barry Jones, and by his grandsons, Daniel Lucien Jones and Alexander Frank Jones. He is also survived by his brother, Dr. David Scott Jones, with whom he practiced for many years.

Dr. Jones received the M.D degree from the University of Tennessee in 1958. He was always grateful to the taxpayers of Tennessee for making it possible for him to go to college and medical school when tuition was almost nothing. He interned at D. C. General Hospital and took his general surgery training at the University of Vermont. He served in the U.S. army at the 34th General Hospital in Orleans, France. He received a Master of Science degree in orthopedic surgery from the Mayo Graduate School of the University of Minnesota in 1967, and took his hand surgery training with Dr. Joseph Boyes in Los Angeles. He practiced orthopedic surgery with Tennessee Orthopedic Alliance and its parent organizations from 1967 until his retirement in 1998.

Dr. Jones was president of the Nashville Orthopedic Society, the Tennessee Orthopedic Society, the Tennessee Hand Surgery Society, and the medical staff of Baptist Hospital. He was a member of the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and was Clinical Assistant Professor of orthopedics at Vanderbilt and Clinical Associate Professor of surgery at the University of Tennessee and Meharry Medical College.

During the period of integration of Nashville public schools, he represented the Social Action Committee of Christians and Jews, testifying in Washington before a House committee.

Dr. Jones loved language, having been profoundly influenced by his German professor and mentor at the University of Tennessee, Dr. H. Woodrow Fuller. He obtained the M.A. degree in French from Vanderbilt in 1995, and was an active member of the French Society for Surgery of the Hand (GEM) and the International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (SICOT).

He received the M.Ed degree from TSU following retirement from medical practice, and taught English as a second language to adult immigrants for 22 years, a second career that he loved. Dr. Jones enjoyed the outdoors, especially cycling, camping, and whitewater canoeing. He was certified by the ACA as a whitewater canoeing instructor and as a trainer of whitewater canoeing instructors.

His roots in middle Tennessee go back to before Tennessee statehood. His family came from North Carolina and settled on the Red River near Clarksville around 1780. His great, great grandfather was a stonemason who worked on the construction of the Tennessee Capitol in Nashville from 1847 to 1852. He was a member of the First Families of Tennessee and past president of the Andrew Jackson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Dr. Jones was a profoundly grateful man, thankful for every new day, every opportunity and blessing he received, and for every one of the family, friends, colleagues and students who graced his life. He was a lover of people and created community wherever he went. These relationships sustained and invigorated him, and the family is grateful to everyone who contributed to the love and laughter that surrounded him and us for so many years.

His tombstone has the same quote from Chaucer as that on Dr. Fuller's "...and gladly would he learn, and gladly teach."

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be sent to The Mayo Clinic Cancer Research Foundation, the Nashville Public Library Adult Literacy Program, or the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association in recognition of their contributions to our world.

Comments



“ I wrote a note of sympathy which has not posted. I send my heartfelt condolences to Audrey and her Family! I wish I had known about this Dear Man's passing as he was a long standing friend— going all the way back to the 7th grade— and never disappointed in his delightful personality and sincere friendship toward so very many! I have tried to reach the family to no avail, so I hope this is posted so that even though belated, my shared sorrow and grief is known to Dear Audrey and her children. Fondly, Donna Gardner Albritton

Donna Lee Albritton - October 06, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ Audrey, Donna Albritton let me know about Frank's passing. Always positive, a leader, a wonderful and humble man.

Frank always gathered our classmates together for a reunion—keeping us in touch
We will miss him.

Judy Overholt Wheeler

judy Overholt Wheeler - October 11, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ My dear Frank, a passionate teacher, a very good person. His passing away made me so sad. He once said in his English class in the church that Americans don't like to say "die", they say "pass away" ... I still remember his voice, gestures. I am currently writing these words, but he won't be correcting my spelling mistakes. God I'm in so much pain. I loved him so much. I am from Turkey. You know, not a cool country in today's conditions but he always made persons like me feel valuable. I used to walk about 40 minutes to Frank's class. He used to brew us coffee. That coffee will remain the best coffee I've ever had. and one day Audrey you had made us cakes. It was gingerbread. I felt myself like I am with a real family. My dear Audrey you and Frank there is a heart that love you both so much beating in Turkey. My prayers are always with you and your family, dear Audrey. I have an 8-month-old daughter now, and I'll tell her about Frank and you when she grows up. I hug big.

Ozgul Aldemir, Turkish student of Frank's

David Jones - September 09, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Our loss is filled with heartache and loving memories of Frank. He enhanced the lives of so many for many years. I am lucky to be part of the global family Frank and Audrey nurtured.
Son in law, Kevin Marshall

Kevin Marshall - September 06, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ Frank Jones did remarkable things in his life. He was a person of strong character and people sensed it. He had friends around the world. He lived simply and without artifice; he had no interest in money or material possessions. He had the heart of a teacher and gave all his body and spirit to teaching and learning, and did it all of his life.

He served and taught gladly. He gave a weekly clinic in hand surgery at Meharry Medical College for years, without pay. It was critical for these medical students who otherwise had little instruction in this subject. He taught English to immigrants for twenty years without any payment. At the beginning, he was told that he could not be a teacher because he did not have a degree in education. Without a second thought, he enrolled at MTSU and earned a Masters degree in Education.

Frank reinvented himself after he retired from orthopedics in 1998. He was well-versed in history and played the part of James Madison (in costume) at adult education seminars at Chautauqua, New York, and spoke to historical societies around the U.S., also playing Aaron Burr and John Adams.

At the time of his retirement Frank began studying French at Vanderbilt and earned a masters degree. He was completely fluent in the language; he visited France many times and traced the family tree, becoming fast friends with the descendents of his ancestors. He acted as an interpreter for visiting French surgeons who presented scientific sessions at Vanderbilt Grand Rounds.

Frank had a generous nature and people liked him and felt better for having met him. His intellect focused on big thoughts, not small things. He has left a lingering presence and it is a happy presence. Frank exemplified the noblest of spiritual values, but probably never thought of himself as being an inspiration to us. I loved him dearly. I have never known anyone quite like him.

Dr. David Jones

David Jones - September 03, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ Audrey and family: The world lost a true "Renaissance man" with Frank's death. It's perhaps an overused term but I feel it fits him perfectly. He was never involved in the pursuit of "stuff", always wanting to learn more, and then teach more. He was far ahead of the rest of us in embracing the needs of those less fortunate, particularly in the black and immigrant community. I consider it a great privilege to have known him. He will be missed. Again, so sorry. Bob Sewell

Bob Sewell - September 02, 2020 at 07:35 PM



“ Frank was such a giving helpful coworker. We began our ESL teaching in the same year at Belmont UMC. His technology expertise was invaluable to me. He will be greatly missed in our program. Thank you, Frank, for your years of service to International students. Cleatus

cleatus - August 31, 2020 at 01:42 PM