



W. Bedford Waters

May 25, 2019

Dr. W. Bedford Waters, age 71, passed away on May 25, 2019 in Knoxville, TN. Bedford was a driven, wise and compassionate doctor, gentleman, friend, and mentor. He was passionate about life and medicine, and as a lifetime student and teacher, he passed on a love of excellence and quality healthcare to multiple generations, personally training over 70 residents. Bedford was a graduate of West High School and Vanderbilt University Medical School. He served his residency in San Diego, California and Boston, Massachusetts, and practiced in Chicago for over 20 years prior to returning to his hometown of Knoxville in 2001. He helped create the urology residency at University of Tennessee Medical Center, and served as both Chairman and Program Director. His distinguished career earned him multiple awards, accolades and titles over the years too many to enumerate, but the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Urological Association this May was the supreme honor. He was humbled, yet proud, to be elected the first African-American fellow of the prestigious American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons. The unveiling of his portrait at the Vanderbilt Medical School in 2018 brought him great joy as did the pleasure of meeting the young woman recipient of the scholarship named after his mother: Irene Bedford Waters. He had a great mind with a servant's heart, and gave his time and talent in ways both big and small. He helped create scholarships at Vanderbilt, and was warm and friendly to both patients and colleagues alike. Bedford will also be remembered for his love of life, cooking and entertaining. He loved to travel the world and his sense of style was impeccable. He was a good friend, loyal to his family and to the communities he served.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Irene G. Bedford Waters, and father, William Browder Waters. Bedford is survived and will be dearly missed by his first cousins Cecelia Waters, Knoxville, TN and Mildred Kelso, Knoxville, TN and Jamesetta Waters Lewis, Dayton, OH. Bedford had a lifelong friendship with first cousin Cecelia Waters and enjoyed spending time with her and her family (daughter Amy Matthews Williams, son-in-law, Revi Williams, and grandchildren, Eliana and Evan Williams) and a host of extended family, friends and colleagues.

A Celebration of Life gathering is to be at The Knoxville Museum of Art located at 1050 World's Fair Park Dr, Knoxville, TN 37916 on June 22nd, 2019 from 6-9PM EST. In lieu of

flowers, consider a donation to the Irene Georgia Bedford Waters Scholarship Fund in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in his memory. Online condolences may be made at rosemortuary.com.

Events

JUN **Celebration of Life Gathering** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

22

Knoxville Museum of Art

1050 World's Fair Park Dr., Knoxville, TN, US, 37916

Comments



“ I only now just learned of Bedford's passing and I'm so very sad. We connected earlier this year in Palm Springs after not seeing each other for decades! We spent the better part of a day and evening together and it was just wonderful! Way back in the late 1970's and early 1980's I was in a "gourmet group" with Bedford and others from the urology community in Boston. I have many sweet memories from those times and I had high hopes of reconnecting again here in the desert with Bedford. My condolences go to his extended family, friends and colleagues. Leslie Pearlman Breitner

Leslie Breitner - July 08 at 10:18 PM



“ Bedford and I were undergraduate classmates at Vanderbilt (class of '70). We lived on the same floor in Carmichael Towers, and most nights, a group of us would go out for dinner together at one of the local establishments nearby. I remember a lot of fun times with Bedford, including an especially memorable double date (I can recall nothing of my date but much about his!). After we moved from Texas to Maryville a few years ago, I became a patient of Dr. Waters. It was a privilege and joy to see what a wonderful physician he had become after not having seen him for almost 50 years. I'm so grateful we were able to renew our friendship and to have been his patient for too short a time. Rest in Peace, good friend and great man.

Kent Willoughby

Kent Willoughby - June 21 at 03:43 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of W. Bedford Waters.



June 19 at 07:24 AM



“ Dr. Waters was a true gentleman and distinguished physician. I will miss his candor and humor.

William R Lynn IV - June 18 at 12:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of W. Bedford Waters.



June 10 at 02:37 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of W. Bedford Waters.



June 10 at 01:13 PM



“ The Alexander Family, California purchased the Mrs. Fields Nibblers Sympathy Basket for the family of W. Bedford Waters.



The Alexander Family, California - June 09 at 03:47 PM



“ Bedford and I were classmates at Vanderbilt Med. School. He was the coolest guy I have ever known. I was so grateful to meet him and spend time with him throughout our years in school. I was bigoted and ignorant, from Mississippi, but open to new life experiences.

What I saw in Bedford was someone who was open and honest, intelligent, but humble, kind and really interesting. He always loved to laugh and share his joys with all of us. He made me feel good, just being around him. I am a terrible friend, not to have kept up with him (and many others). And now that he has passed, I find myself in deep grief...and at a loss for words to console the family and friends he was closest to. I loved

Bedford Waters, and will forever be grateful for his friendship.

Julian Alexander, M.D., class of 1974.

Julian Alexander - June 09 at 03:40 PM



“ I was fortunate to spend 4 years of medical school at Vanderbilt with Bedford. I remember him as being warm, extremely intelligent, and having the best head of hair in the class! I followed with pride his achievements and awards after graduation. The world has truly lost a great physician. My condolences to his family.

Bill McClanahan, Class of '74

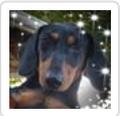
William McClanahan - June 08 at 11:27 AM



“ Dr. Waters was a great man. He has been my doctor for several years. He has helped me through some tough times. I visited his office just days before his passing. I had an opportunity to let him that I cared and I was praying for his health. Dr. Bedford Waters will be greatly missed by many including me. May God comfort and bring peace to all the family and friends during this most difficult time.



Roy Breeden - June 05 at 09:58 AM



“ A wonderful doctor. He will be missed.



Cris Natali - June 04 at 07:08 PM



“ Kathryn Miller lit a candle in memory of W. Bedford Waters



Kathryn Miller - June 04 at 09:31 AM



“ Knowing Dr. Waters was a great experience as one of his patients. He was a unique caring person with an instant showing of his shared love. May God bless his family and friends with peace and comfort. Heaven has gained a special angel. He will be missed by many.

Kathryn Miller - June 04 at 09:40 AM



“ Lee Sider lit a candle in memory of W. Bedford Waters



Lee Sider - June 02 at 03:02 PM



“ From our Chicago days, Bedford taught me being a Doctor could be a lot of fun as well as being rewarding. Nobody lived life like Dr Waters.

Lee Sider - June 02 at 03:04 PM



“ I've known Bedford for many years. He was always full of life, quick to laugh and brought a smile to my face whenever we saw each other. I have many fond memories of Bedford and his bigger than life, generous personality.
Andrew Wilson

Andrew Wilson - June 02 at 02:57 PM



“ I have known Bedford most of my life as his family were our neighbors. And our mothers were good friends. He was a kind, outgoing person, and an exceptional physician and surgeon. He will be greatly missed. My prayers to his family.

Jamesetta Holmes Shipe

Jamesetta Shipe - June 01 at 09:53 PM



“ I was glad to have reconnected with Bedford on FB and to have seen him at our 70th birthday celebration! My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. I wish I could be at his memorial service, but I am in Spain right now.

Margaret Wade - May 31 at 10:27 PM



“ Tennessee Urology Doctors and Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of W. Bedford Waters.



Tennessee Urology Doctors and Staff - May 31 at 11:42 AM



“ Dr. Water's was passionate about people in underserved communities. One early Saturday morning he drove to Morristown to a church and provided men's healthcare education. The church was full of both men and women. Dr. Water's commended the women for attending on behalf of the men in their live's. Dr. Water's was surrounded by people in the audience after his talk. I can still see in my mind's eye the respect of the participants. They were shaking his hand and hugging his neck. Dr. Water's was very patient and gracious. He was there over an hour visiting with the attendee's . He will be Dearly missed. His passion for his work and people will live on and be passed on.



Linda Cruze - May 31 at 11:34 AM



“ Bedford had a wonderful and monumental influence on the trajectory of my life. Our adventures will always be something I will cherish! What a force he was in the world!

Rick Wilson - May 31 at 11:07 AM



“ IMG_1143.jpg

Rick Wilson - May 31 at 11:11 AM



“ He will be greatly missed. It was a privilege and an honor to know him. Prayers to the entire family.



David Shuler - May 31 at 10:47 AM



“ Our family is sad to hear about your passing. We grew up together in the old hood til we moved 50 years ago and our prayers to the family.

Guyton M. Vance & Family - June 01 at 10:38 PM



“ I've known Bedford most of my life. Smart, intelligent & outgoing! He will be greatly missed! Prayers for the entire family!



Yvonne Andrews - May 31 at 08:49 AM



“ It was my pleasure to have worked for and along side Bedford as his nurse since his arrival at University Urology. We were a good team and he made me feel part of his family. I learned so much from him. His wisdom and compassionate nature were unparalleled and his legacy will continue to inspire others. He will be remembered and share a spot in my heart always.

Thinking of you, his family, and wishing you hope in the midst of sorrow, comfort in the midst of pain.

Bertie Johnson

Hilberta Johnson - May 31 at 07:54 AM



“ Attending the PBS screening of the Downton Abbey finale in our 1918 attire



deborah franklin - May 30 at 09:29 PM



“ Attending the PBS screening of Downton Abbey’s final episode at the Tennessee Theatre in our 1918 attire

deborah franklin - May 30 at 09:27 PM



“ Prayers for the family!!!

Ryan Hillis - May 30 at 08:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Litwin - May 30 at 07:32 PM



“ Absolutely loved providing anesthesia for Dr. Waters at UT. Fantastic person and doctor. Always enjoyed talking to him about the Windy City. A rare gentleman!!

Becky Ray - May 30 at 09:24 PM



“ My condolences to the family. Dr. Waters was my son's doctor over the years. He truly seemed to care and always seemed happy. A very good man. A very good doctor. He will be hard to replace both in your family and the medical community. May God grant you peace and comfort in days ahead.

Charlotte Byrd - May 30 at 07:07 PM



“ Glad to have had the pleasure to have worked with such a brilliant and intelligent man who was also a humble spirit. My heart, love, and condolences go out to his family and friends.

Candice Parr - May 30 at 06:40 PM



“ I was a patient of Dr. Waters for many years. He was very good and caring at what he did for you as a doctor. I was in his office (9) nine days before his transition for an exam. He will be missed by many including me.

Irvin L. Willis

Irvin L. Willis - May 30 at 06:32 PM



“ We are deeply saddened to hear about Dr. Waters passing away. My husband has been a patient of Dr. Waters since 2003. We dearly loved him. We will be praying for his family because we know he will be greatly missed. We will also miss him.



Jewitt and Mary Mullins - May 30 at 06:28 PM



“ So sorry, loved him he was a great Doc.did not work with him in or but did on the floor, going to miss him ,a great loss R I P Bedford.



Odessa Carr - May 30 at 05:58 PM



“ WBW, you will be missed. I am happy to say that I had the pleasure of working with you at Loyola. You were a wonderful doctor and brilliant surgeon. Your patients and staff loved you and respected you. I loved hearing you talk about Irene and Paris. You took such wonderful care of your mom. I was glad to be in touch with you recently regarding Paris. It made the trip that much more enjoyable. I was glad to call you a friend and to have stayed in touch after you left. Say hi to Irene.

Bobbi Dobrinski-Koranda - May 30 at 05:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Victor Moore - May 30 at 05:01 PM



“ I love this photo. Bedford was such an elegant man.

Gay - May 30 at 08:45 PM



“ No words could ever do you justice, Bedford. You were bigger than life... and you were life itself. And while there is currently a hole where you once filled our hearts and lives, you left so, so much more with every life you touched. Your spark and spirit and unfailing inspiration will illuminate the path ahead for many years to come. As my son so aptly said, “Rest in peace, you legend.” Because a legend you were... and forever will be.

Marie Illingworth - May 30 at 04:36 PM



“ My sympathies to all of the Waters family at this time. Dr. Waters was truly treasured on every level, personally and professionally.

Therese Zaltash - May 30 at 04:06 PM



“ Prayers to family ..Thank you for sharing Dr.Waters with me and the nursing staff .He was generous with his knowledge and expertise .He will be missed !

Deryl Case - May 30 at 03:55 PM