



Dr. William Tyler Read

December 15, 1930 - October 5, 2018

A memorial service for Dr. William “Bill” Tyler Read, 87, of Tyler, will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Pollard United Methodist Church with Reverend Richard Luna and Reverend Stephen Rhoads officiating. A private family burial will precede the service at Rose Hill Cemetery and a visitation will follow the service in the church parlor.

Dr. Read was called home to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, October 5, 2018. He was born December 15, 1930 in Mart, Texas to Winfred Weldon and Elma Folk Read. He was raised in Mart and graduated Mart High School. Following high school, he attended Baylor University graduating in 1952, after which he attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, graduating in 1956. He interned at Denver General Hospital in Denver, Colorado and completed his pediatric residency at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas in 1961. In addition, he received his Board Certification in Pediatrics in 1963.

He served as a captain in the United States Air Force from 1957 - 1959 serving as a General Duty Medical Officer at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Following his education and military service, Dr. Read moved to Tyler and began his private practice. It was in Tyler where he found his calling to serve others. He practiced pediatric medicine for 29 years until he retired in 1990. During this time, he was on the attending and consulting staff at Mother Francis Hospital and Medical Center Hospital.

Dr. Read was a member of Beta Beta Beta biological honor society, the American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society, Smith County Medical Society, and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Following retirement, Dr. Read went back to work at St. Paul Children's Clinic as a volunteer physician in the indigent clinic from 1991 – 1999. In addition, he volunteered throughout his life at his spiritual home, Pollard United Methodist Church. During the last few years, he was proud to serve the Hospice of East Texas as a volunteer serving in various roles.

Dr. Read was the recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Volunteer Services in 1993 and the Gold Headed Cane Award in 1999.

Dr. Read married the love of his life, Nancy Coleman on August 22, 1952. Their 60 years of marriage were strong, and they were blessed with two children, Lezlie and Cole.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife, Nancy Coleman Read. He is survived by his daughter Lezlie Jinks and her husband, Jayson of Allen, Texas, son William Coleman Read and his partner, Frank Rosales of Dallas, Texas, and grandson Pearson Read Jinks of Allen, Texas. The family would like to acknowledge with gratitude the care and support of the Hospice of East Texas during his final days. In addition, we would like to acknowledge all the love and support he received from his neighbors and friends with special thanks to Anthe Caruso, Jim and Faye Crawford, Bobby Crone and Kim Reel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Hospice of East Texas or Pollard United Methodist Church.

Honorary pallbearers will be H. O. Abbott, Dr. Joe Bates, Dr. Joe Bill Belue, Jim Crawford, Bobby Crone, Carlos Flores, Nolan Manziel, and Larry Whitaker.

My father truly had a blessed life. He was born in the small central Texas town of Mart to hard working parents. Growing up he did what most boys do, played football and worked in the family grocery business. In high school he met my mother, Nancy Lou Coleman. Both my parents attended Baylor University and they were married just before he began his medical training in Galveston. Upon graduation, he interned in Denver where my sister was born, followed by military service in Wyoming, and his residency in Dallas where I was born. In 1961, our family moved to Tyler, a growing community in need of a pediatrician.

Dad was a doctor from the old school. In those days, he made house calls. In fact, one of his favorite nurses, Dolly Taylor, recalled how Dad went to his first house call and in his excitement, he forgot his doctor's bag. Growing up, my Dad's footsteps could be heard countless times in the middle of the night coming down the hall of our house on his way to the hospital to welcome a newborn or treat a sick child. At our home, he installed an office phone next to our dinner table, so he could take calls during our meals. I do not think we ever had dinner without hearing my father say, "Have they had a BM today?" Our dinners were never dull in our house!

Several of my father's friends have told me that my dad always treated patients regardless of their ability to pay or the color of their skin. When my dad setup private practice in Tyler, his first office came with a patient examining room intended for "colored children". The times were changing, and my father ended this practice.

I remember my mother telling me the story that on one of his initial days in his office when his practice was just beginning, my father was reading the paper while my mother was doing paperwork. When the phone rang, my mother asked my dad to answer the phone because she was busy. While he did answer the phone, I believe that was the last day my mother worked in his office!

I was only 13 years old when my mother was diagnosed with cancer. Although

we did not know she had been given 6 months to live, my sister and I knew that her condition was serious. My father was devastated with my mother's diagnosis but determined to ensure she had the best care possible. During her monthly chemo treatments, my dad took off from work and drove my mother to MD Anderson in Houston returning the same day to administer her treatment at their bedside. With my mother's determination, my father's strength, and their strong faith, my mother's cancer went into remission. After 29 years, my father retired from private practice at age 59 but he was hardly finished with practicing medicine. Very soon, he went back to work volunteering at St. Paul Children's Clinic as a physician in the indigent clinic for almost 8 years. At age 61, he selflessly donated one of his kidneys to his cousin Mark in Houston. The gift afforded Mark the opportunity to spend additional time with his family and friends.

My parents spent their later years traveling. Their passion was antiques and my mother opened a small business in Tyler. Mom and Dad journeyed to England 2-3 times a year to buy for her store. While it was my mother's business, my dad liked to think of it as a joint venture. My mother had a keen eye for finding treasures and according to my her, my dad not as much. She said for every item she found to sell, your dad would find two items that they had to keep!! It was a passion they enjoyed and shared together.

As his son, I was in awe of his dedication and strength. He never slowed down and never rested until all his work was done. At times it was difficult to be his son and live up to the high standards he set for himself and his family. When my mother passed away in 2013, my dad was devastated. So much of his life had been devoted to her care and wellbeing. My father needed a new purpose, a reason for living. While in her absence, he developed new friendships and volunteered at the Hospice of East Texas, his life was not the same without my mother. Throughout his life, my dad was blessed with good health. When that began to decline, he began to see things differently. His life was dedicated to serving others, but his health no longer permitted him to fulfill this mission.

My Father taught us that there was nothing more important in life than serving others. Whether he was seeing patients as a physician in his practice or at the St Paul clinic, volunteering at his church, visiting sick friends like clockwork or manning the front desk at Hospice of East Texas, he never waived from his life's mission to serve.

He may not have been a bible scholar, but he truly had a servant's heart. I believe this passage from Mark 10:43-45 rings true for my father

“But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Cole Read

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

Pollard United Methodist Church
3030 Copeland Rd.
Tyler, TX 75701

Visitation and reception after service

OCT 11 (CT)

Pollard United Methodist Church Parlor

Tribute Wall

AP

“ I was a product of Dr. Reed’s generosity and genuine care during his tenure at St. Paul Clinic. He was an extremely nice doctor and I have vivid memories of him talking to me during my childhood when I would come in sick to clinic with my mom. He exemplified what it meant to be professional with a kind heart toward me and my siblings. I only wish I would have known him longer. God Bless him and his whole family.

- Arthur Pichon

Arthur Pichon - October 11, 2020 at 07:19 PM

JM

“ Dr Read was the most amazing doctor I've ever known. He was my children's doctor until we moved out of state. (1984). I've often thought of him over the years and finally decided to look for him and send a card if gratitude. Too late! May he rest in peace, knowing so many people had a better life because of him. Such a wonderful doctor!

Joyce maddox - February 22, 2020 at 06:54 PM

WM

“ I met Dr. Bill Read over 35 years ago when I came to Tyler to deliver babies. Whereas my task was abbreviated, he was here to take care of many of them for the next 18 years of their lives. Dr. Read knew the names of each of his young patients, was always available to their parents, and cared for each as if he/she were his own. After retirement, he used his gifts of understanding and compassion to care for under served children through St. Paul Children's Foundation. Debbie and I were privileged to go with him to Israel last summer with our church. We walked together where Jesus walked. Now he and Nancy walk with Him. God bless Dr. Bill Read for having the heart of a servant!

William E. Brown, M.D. - October 10, 2018 at 02:48 PM

PA

“ Dr. Read was an absolutely wonderful pediatrician. I worked with him at Mother Frances hospital in the pediatric unit for 10 years and I admired the way he loved his patients. He was also one of the most intelligent doctors that I've ever known. I pray for Gods comforting peace to envelope his children and grandchildren. Rest in peace with your sweet wife in heaven Dr Read.

Patsy Alexander, RN

patsy alexander - October 08, 2018 at 09:14 PM

JT

“ Dr. Read was a gentleman and an inspiration. I was his patient as a child and he inspired me to become a physician. His example of compassionate, involved care is one I will always remember and strive to meet.

John Thompson

John Thompson - October 08, 2018 at 10:03 AM

ST

“ *Sending prayers to the Read family...May Mr. Read Rest In Peace.*



Stephanie Talley - October 08, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ *Always friendly and cheerful + active at Pollard Methodist Church. Maintained a well-groomed property. Know his children will miss him. So gracious of Bill to visit Dave's 92 year old sister, Dollie Taylor just a short time ago. She was thrilled & loved the visit. Dave and Carolyn Halbrooks Bain*

Carolyn Bain - October 07, 2018 at 06:17 PM

DF

“*Dr. Read took care of our two sons. We thank our blessed Savior because he was brought into our life. As all mothers, I looked and listened to recommendations for the best pediatrician in Tyler. Dr. Read’s name was repeatedly recommended. We loved him and, although I was happy for his retirement, I was sad to lose our wonderful physician. I remember visiting his office after his grandson, Read, was born. He was so proud and happy. Dr. Read was focused and all about caring for the children. When my first son, Matt (now 39 years old) was one month old, I got him all dressed up for his first visit to his pediatrician’s office. He looked like a doll, blonde hair, blue eyes, rosy cheeks. As a proud mama, I was prepared for compliments. Dr. Read walked into the room, touched his rosy cheek and said, “I can do something about that.” That set the tone of our 11-year relationship. I’ve laughed about it often. He took my boys safely through their early years. We will be forever grateful. May he Rest In Peace. May his family’s hearts be comforted knowing he was loved and cherished by so many people. I’m sure God greeted him by saying, “Well done my good and faithful servant. David and Dede Fleisher and sons, Matthew and Scott*”

David and Dede Fleisher - October 07, 2018 at 04:20 PM

LT

“*Lynda Tippit lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Tyler Read*”



Lynda Tippit - October 07, 2018 at 04:12 PM

WT

“ He cared for my children and then my grandchildren. He was a wonderful Doctor to a lot of children. We loved him. Rest in piece Dr. Read . The Thedford Family.

Wilma , Marlana, Randy Thedford - October 07, 2018 at 08:11 AM

PL

“ Have three grown children now, he answered the phone, he always beat me to the ER. He was extremely kind, caring, the kids loved him, I am so thankful they grew up under his care! He will be missed, can't say enough great, kind things about this doctor!
Paula, Mike, Mark, Carrie & Wes Lane

paula lane - October 06, 2018 at 04:43 PM

DR

“ Dr. Bill Read should have a shrine erected to his memory. He was the most caring and professional doctor I have ever known.
Sincerely, Dr. Janis McClain Roan

Dr. Janis M. Roan - October 06, 2018 at 02:37 PM

JL

“ He always did for others , and a tireless worker with no recognition wanted.
Tyler lost a true Gentleman..
Rest In Peace, Dr. Bill.

James A Lozier - October 06, 2018 at 11:38 AM