



Francis Hansell "Hank" Watt, MD

February 24, 1923 - August 8, 2019

Nothing shall ever separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. --Romans 8:38

"Every day give God glory." -F. Hansell Watt

Francis Hansell "Hank" Watt was born on February 24, 1923, to William Augustin and "Bob" Mary Lindsey Watt of Thomasville, GA. The third of four sons, Hank enjoyed practical jokes, poetry and literature, hunting, fishing, FSU football, baseball, and exploring the natural world. After high school and a thwarted attempt to join the Army at 17, he graduated pre-med from Davidson College (ODK, 1944), then entered Johns Hopkins Medical School. There, he was part of the first surgical team success at blue baby heart repair in 1947-48. While in medical school, he met his future wife and physician, Dr. Henrietta "Honey" Watt, whom he married in September, 1948.

He served as a captain in the US Army (stationed in Puerto Rico) he continued his lifelong participation in medical missions Ometepe and Morelia, Mexico, Haiti, Kenya, the former Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), Malawi, and Indonesia, all the while maintaining practice as a general surgeon. Dr. Watt established the first intensive care unit at Tallahassee Memorial Regional Hospital and performed a wide range of surgical procedures there, also serving patients from nearby towns like Havana,

Quincy and Monticello, often accepting payment in corn, beans and garden produce. A deeply committed Christian, Dr. Watt served as an elder at Faith Presbyterian Church for over 50 years, taught Sunday School, and attended the weekly Men's Bible Study well into his nineties. He continued international medical mission outreach, starting a Green Stamps drive to buy a plane for missionaries to Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo) and co-founded the Medical Benevolence Foundation (1964) (PCUSA) which provides direct physician care in several foreign countries.

Dr. Watt loved to hunt, fish, and grow his own produce in his hydroponic garden. At one point, he raised quail to help in training his Llewellyn setters. After mastering fixed wing gliders, he earned his instrumentation pilot's license at 67. He was a naturalist of the first order, able to identify every tree, fish, fowl, reptile, and weather pattern. He loved the Big Bend and was committed to preserving its natural resources.

Dr. Watt was a committed family man, taking his family on far flung jaunts to Mexico, the World's Fair (1964) and vacations at St Teresa, and Cape San Blas. He is pre-deceased by his wife of 63 years, and his son, Francis Hansell Watt, Jr. He leaves behind six daughters, Lindsey Watt March, Helen E. "Betsy" Watt, MD., Laura Watt "Jeanie" Casati (Bill Lacey), Sandy Watt Hearn (Tom), Jamie Watt Jones and Carolyn Watt Cantwell (Jeff), and daughter-in-law, Margie Best Watt, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren; 3 cousins, George Watt, Marianne "Sissy" Jeffries Williams, and Maggie Watt Roddenberry, and a host of longtime friends.

The Watt family wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to his devoted caregivers.

Interment will be Sunday, August 18, at 10 a.m. at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, GA, with a 2 pm memorial service at Faith Presbyterian Church,

Tallahassee, FL, Reception in the Fellowship Hall to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Medical Benevolence Foundation, (9555 W Sam Houston Pkwy S Suite 170, Houston, TX 77099), and the Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF- P.O. Box 1349 State College, PA 16804-1349 USA)

Special thanks to Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home in assisting this family with these arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Laurel Hill Cemetery

700 E Jackson St
Thomasville, GA 31792

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Laurel Hill Cemetery
700 E Jackson St
Thomasville, GA 31792

Memorial Service

AUG 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 North Meridian Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Reception

AUG 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 North Meridian Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall

MY

“ *Family of liars. So, so, sad! Pathetic!*

ML Goings, daughter in law for 15 years - April 04, 2021 at 01:33 AM

WK

“ *I first met Dr Watt and Honey when they came to visit Betsy while she was enrolled at Tulane Med School, in the 70's. He and his family had a great impact on my choice to come to Tallahassee for my FP Residency in 1976. He set a high bar for all of us while we were in training and influenced my choice to do medical missions in Haiti. Recently I have joined a Monday noon Bible Study that he attended when able. His "excellence in all things" has followed him to his heavenly reward! Bill Kepper*

William T Kepper - August 15, 2019 at 12:04 PM

LC

“ *Lance Corley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Francis Hansell "Hank" Watt, MD.*



Lance Corley - August 14, 2019 at 11:55 AM

JP

“ *great doctor and human, we worked together 1979-1987, i was impressed with his work in OR and around world. now i am retired and trying follow his path, going India provide medical voluteering [anesthesia]. god bless him.....dr jitendra padalia*

Jitendra Padalia - August 13, 2019 at 04:23 PM

CC

Dr. Jitendra, I am Dr. Watt's youngest child, Carolyn. May I contact you by email? Since this is a public forum, would you feel comfortable giving your email to the Bevis Funeral home who can then forward it to me? I would love to hear any stories of your time with Dad. I helped him in the OR when we went to Haiti in 1977-He did 50+ surgeries in 9 days!!! Thank you! Carolyn W. Cantwell

Carolyn Cantwell - August 14, 2019 at 11:29 AM

JP

i am coming to memorial service, my cell # 8502645902. dr jitendra padalia

Jitendra Padalia - August 18, 2019 at 12:28 PM

CC

I'm so sorry I missed you at the reception. Thanks for your cell.

Carolyn Cantwell - August 26, 2019 at 01:28 PM

MG

“ *I am so sorry to hear about the death of your father. We lost our mother on July 29 and will be in Tallahassee this coming weekend to celebrate her life. What wonderful memories we all have of your family. Your friendship meant a lot to the Grahams. From Marion, Bill, Lee, Jim, and Robert Graham*

Marion Graham - August 13, 2019 at 10:24 AM

SH

This is winderful hearing from yall.I saw your moms announcement in the paper andcwant to tell yall how much we admired her and your dad!! We surely had great friends in the neighborhood didnt we! A special hello to my peer Jim!! Love Sandy Watt Hearn

Sandy Watt Hearn - September 01, 2019 at 01:22 PM

KF

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. He was my doctor back in 1975. He performed surgery on me then. He was a very caring person and I never forgot that after all these years.*

Karen Frye - August 10, 2019 at 05:16 PM