



## Dr. Ivan A. Backerman

August 19, 1935 - November 27, 2023

Dr. Ivan A. Backerman, aged 88, passed away on November 27, 2023. Born on August 19, 1935, in Brooklyn, New York, he was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel L. and Ruth Backerman, and brothers Gilbert and Norman. Dr. Backerman is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Susie Bramlett Backerman, his daughter Jill (Backerman) Finnerty and her husband Tom, his cherished grandchildren Cullen Finnerty of Fitchburg, WI, and Isabel Finnerty of Athens, GA as well as his loved nephews Dr. Sam Beckerman (Erica) of Los Angeles, CA and Dr. Dan Beckerman (Carolyn) of San Francisco, CA.

At the young age of only 16, Ivan Backerman was awarded the prestigious Ford Foundation Scholarship to the University of Chicago. He was only in his second year of high school. At the University of Chicago, he earned an A.B. in Philosophy and an S.B. in Biochemistry.

While completing his undergraduate degree he was awarded a full scholarship to the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, where he went on to complete four years of training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Crawford W Long Memorial Hospital of Emory, concluding his medical training in 1964.

Dr. Backerman established a distinguished private practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology in East Point, Georgia. He spent 32 years caring for the women of south-Atlanta, delivering thousands of babies and enjoying his passion for

teaching and training new physicians, medical students and nurses. He served on the volunteer clinical faculty at the Department of OB-GYN at Emory School of Medicine.

While in private practice, he served as the head of the department and chief of medical staff at South Fulton Medical Center, contributing significantly to the medical community. Dr. Backerman held esteemed positions, including President of the Atlanta OB-GYN Society, Board of Directors of the Georgia OB-GYN Society, and Board of Directors of South Atlanta Association of OB-GYN. He was honored as a Fellow of the American College of OB-GYN, the American College of Surgeons, and the International College of Surgeons, among numerous other boards and fellowships.

In 1996, Dr. Backerman and his wife Susie retired to their beloved Dog Island home, where they resided full-time. Dr. Backerman could not leave his passion for caring for people behind. For three decades, Dr. Backerman served as the dedicated Emergency Physician for the residents of Dog Island, Florida, volunteering his medical expertise to treat injuries and illnesses, even animals, when an island emergency arose. His service extended beyond, he was acting as the Medical Advisor for Dog Island Fire Department First Responders and provided volunteer and teaching services in clinics in Panama City and Franklin County, showcasing his commitment to accessible healthcare. In 2002, he received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award for his countless hours of community service. The Florida Medical Association acknowledged his contributions to indigent and medically needy individuals and in 2005, he received a volunteer award from the Florida Department of Health for outstanding contributions to the Department and Health of Women.

Dr. Backerman's passions were not limited solely to being a doctor and caring for his patients. That passion extended to the love of flying. A licensed pilot

since 1967, he and Susie loved flying to and from the island, as well as around the United States and Bahamas. It was his primary source of transportation when he first moved to Dog Island. He was a proud and active member of the Tallahassee Hanger of the Quiet Birdmen, a society for male aviators. He tried hard to never miss a meeting and enjoyed many events with fellow members. Dr. Backerman embraced life from traveling with Dog Island friends, entertaining his family and friends on his gulf-view porch, striking up the grill to make delicious ribs and steak and passionately following college football. He displayed his team flag and sported FSU gear as well as supporting each grandchild with a shout of Roll Tide and Go Dawgs and a quick change of the house flags and outfit depending on which game was on TV. A connoisseur of art, music, and food, he remained a perpetual scholar with an insatiable curiosity.

Dr. Ivan A. Backerman will be deeply missed by all those he selflessly served and loved. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to Dog Island First Responders/Volunteer Fire Department HC63, P.O. Box 5004, Carrabelle, FL 32322. Checks made out to Dog Island Volunteer Fire Department.

The family will be receiving guests for a visitation at Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (200 John Knox Rd) on Friday, December 29, 2023 at 11:00 am with a service to immediately follow at 12:00 pm.

Spreading of Ashes and Celebration of Life will be held on Dog Island at The Backerman Residence on Saturday, December 30, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

# Tribute Wall

SL

“ I just saw that doctor backerman passed. I'm so sorry Susie and Jill. I enjoyed the old house on dog island with my uncle Karl and aunt ruby. He was a fantastic person and will be missed  
Sandy Lloyd

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**Sandy Lloyd** - May 10, 2024 at 11:11 AM

*B*  
BEVIS

“ 1 file added to the album Service Footage



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**Bevis Funeral Home** - December 29, 2023 at 03:53 PM

NN

“ One of the great blessings in my life came after met my husband, Millard Noblin’s first cousin, Susie and her husband, Ivan. I loved them instantly, and we became not only family, but best friends. Ivan loved his family and friends deeply and was never afraid to show his love. His brilliant mind never lost its thirst for learning and growing. Everyone who met Ivan loved him. He was a loyal honorary member of the Leon Class of 1953, attending as many class reunions and men’s groups as he could. His dedication to the medical profession never diminished as he ministered to Wakulla County, Carabelle, Dog Island and the frequent phone calls for “Ivan, what should I do to feel better or treat this?” Millard and I will miss our special meals with Ivan and Susie on the coast and in Tallahassee, sharing stories and, most of all, bragging on our grandchildren! Ivan is forever in our hearts. Our deepest sympathies and prayers for Susie, Jill and Tom, Cullen and Isabel. We love you, Nancy and Millard Noblin

Nancy and Millard Noblin - December 28, 2023 at 06:46 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ivan A. Backerman.



December 27, 2023 at 04:35 PM

MB

“ Mrs. Celia S. Bray purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Ivan A. Backerman.



Mrs. Celia S. Bray - December 27, 2023 at 12:52 PM

EG

“ *Ed and Gloria purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Ivan A. Backerman.*



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**Ed and Gloria** - December 27, 2023 at 12:44 PM

CF

“ My mother and father met Ivan when he was a young student at the University of Chicago Medical School. My father and Ivan’s relationship was as much like brothers as friends.

*My father was not one for taking family vacations; however, the one vacation we did take was a long road trip down to spend a week in Atlanta with Ivan and Suzie.*

*I was raised in the steel mill belt on the South Side of Chicago. In 1976, all of the steel mills were shutting down, and along with them all of the jobs for college students disappeared. I found a job in Atlanta in a criminal justice program. My father suggested that I call Ivan and see if he and Suzie could provide me a room for the spring while I worked downtown in Atlanta. Graciously, they agreed to do so.*

*My time in Atlanta that spring was a pivotal moment in my life. Ivan spent the next three months subtly mentoring me on striving for professional school and, essentially, encouraged me to believe that one could overcome the social and economic limitations of my youth. Up until that time, I do not think that having a career as a lawyer was even on my radar. A career path of that nature had never even been suggested to me. Thinking back, Ivan’s gracious, humorous, and serious mentoring led me down that path.*

*Ivan’s impact on me is perhaps reflected by the fact that – a couple years later - I chose Ivan’s alma mater, Emory University, to attend law school. For the three years of law school, Ivan and Suzie continued to keep an eye on my wife, Linda, and I as we managed our way through law school.*

*The debt that I owe Ivan and Suzie is one that I can never repay. His lessons are embedded in me as I try to mentor other young people in the way Ivan mentored me.*

*Goodbye Ivan and Godspeed,*

- Christopher Patrick Ford



Christopher Patrick Ford - December 06, 2023 at 11:47 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the album Dog Island



Debra Ellen Hartman - December 03, 2023 at 11:55 AM

HA

“ Words can't truly express our love for Ivan. I can say he never put himself before someone's needs - ever. Even when it was my Doberman, on the eve of NY eve.... He will always be loved and missed by Mike and I.

Hannon - December 01, 2023 at 07:12 PM

M(

Dear Susie, I am sorry to be so late getting in touch but want you to know how much Floyd and I appreciated your friendship and hospitality during our years at South Fulton Hospital and many trips to SGI. Ivan was an exceptional doctor and person and we knew you were his "right hand man"! Floyd passed in March of '22 and I was not able to travel when Ivan passed in '23. You were and are in my thoughts and prayers - always loved your Christmas cards! Love - Doris Cooper ( Dr. Floyd R.Cooper Jr.).

Mrs. Floyd R.Cooper Jr. (Doris) - April 27, 2024 at 01:07 PM