



Dr. William Earl Bennett

February 3, 1949 - February 10, 2025

Dr. William Earl Bennett, aged 76, beloved husband, dedicated father, and esteemed physician, passed away peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by family, on February 10, 2025. Born on February 3, 1949, to Fred and Thelma Bennett, he was the eldest of five brothers. Throughout his life, he left an indelible stamp on so many through his wisdom, compassionate care, and exuberance for life.

“Billy” spent his early youth exploring the mountains surrounding Asheville, NC, before moving with his family to Gainesville, FL. He was drafted into the Vietnam War shortly after high school, serving a tour as a combat medic, an experience that profoundly shaped his dedication to medicine. Upon returning, he graduated from Florida State University and completed his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Florida in 1978.

In the early 80’s, he moved to Harriman, TN, with his young family, where he established a respected practice in Internal Medicine. Later, he became a Fellow of both the

American

College of Physicians and the American College of Forensic Examiners, paving the way for him to serve as the Medical Examiner for multiple counties over the following decades.

Dr. Bennett was not only a devoted healer and caregiver, but an educator, always willing to mentor and share his vast experiences and knowledge. His conviction and commitment to his craft, coupled with his combat experience, yielded a presence that touched all those with whom he interacted. His presence and legacy were further bolstered by the heroic, lifesaving story - recounted in "Reader's Digest" - in which Dr. Bennett saved his 11-month-old son, who had been submerged in a car at the bottom of a murky pond for 15 minutes.

In his personal life, he was passionate about the lakes, rivers, and hills of East Tennessee. He would often be seen cruising the river and enjoying the sunsets with his wife, Martha. He was an avid reader and great conversationalist, loved jazz music and outdoor life, and was proud of his garden and the fact that his sons could never defeat him at Trivial Pursuit.

But his greatest joy was his family. He leaves behind a wife of 35 years, Martha, three sons and a daughter, two brothers, and an abundance of grandchildren and extended family.

A memorial service will be held at the Kingston Church of Christ on Feb 14, 2025 at 4pm,

Father Jack King presiding. A private burial will be announced at a later date for the family.

Dr. Bennett's enduring legacy of empathetic care, devotion to learning, and zest for life will

continue to inspire and be cherished by all who had the privilege to know him.

Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Bennett Family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 14. 4:00 PM (ET)

Kingston Church of Christ
303 N. Kentucky Street
Kingston, TN 37763

Tribute Wall

CM

“ RIP Bill, I am saddened by this news, you are a good guy. We went through a lot of experiences as the class of 78 at UF college of Medicine. Thank you also for your service to our country! Carl Johnson MD 78

Carl Johnson, MD - September 29, 2025 at 07:56 AM

JP

“ I was fortunate to call Bill Bennet and his lovely wife friends plus he was my Doctor. I have many great memories of all the funny things that happen to me especially the eight inch chef's knife in the rear and the six stitches I received and the fun we all had in his office about this . Bill had a wonderful sense of humor and we were always laughing and I will cherish those memories. God Bless his family Janice Poland

Janice L Poland - March 06, 2025 at 10:30 AM

VH

“ Venice Camille Hatcher lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Earl Bennett



Venice camille Hatcher - February 13, 2025 at 10:59 PM

RW

“ Robbin W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Earl Bennett.

Robbin W. - February 13, 2025 at 05:20 PM

JS

“ Joseph S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. William Earl Bennett.

Joseph S. - February 13, 2025 at 09:18 AM

JS

“ Joseph S. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. William Earl Bennett.



Joseph S. - February 13, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ I always thoroughly appreciated the interaction that I had with Bill! He was a close colleague and friend! I will always remember his heroic action when he managed to stop the car with his son in it from going into the lake! I will miss him! I am at my home in Portugal at the present time and sadly will not be able to be there for his service but my thoughts and prayers will be there. Fondly: Victor McLaughlin

Victor McLaughlin - February 12, 2025 at 03:05 PM

VH

Thank you for your kind words. Love, Bill's daughter

Venice camille Hatcher - February 14, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dr. William Earl Bennett.*



February 12, 2025 at 02:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. William Earl Bennett.*



February 12, 2025 at 12:37 PM