



Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.

October 3, 1937 - May 11, 2025

Charles W. White, Sr., MD, 87, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2025, at Henderson County

Community Hospital in Lexington, Tennessee. Born in 1937 in Philadelphia, Mississippi, to

Clarence "Skeeter" White and Maree Webb White, Dr. White dedicated his life to the service of

others through a distinguished medical career, leaving an indelible mark on his community.

Dr. White left Brinkley, AR to attend Memphis State University and finished his degree in 3 ½

years. While that might seem to be quite an accomplishment, the most lasting memory of his

time at Memphis State was meeting and marrying the love of his life, Joyce Canode.

Following his years at Memphis State, Dr. White pursued his passion for medicine with

unwavering commitment, earning his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College

of Medicine in 1962. He finished a rotating internship at Methodist Hospital in 1963 and then

served for two years as a physician in the US Air Force. He relocated with his family to

Lexington, Tennessee in 1965 and opened a private practice. He continued to serve as a physician to the people of Henderson County for 53 years until his retirement in 2018. Known for his diagnostic acumen and fierce dedication to his patients, Dr. White treated generations of families, forming deep, lifelong bonds with his patients. He was a founding member of Family Physicians of Lexington, where he played a pivotal role in expanding access to quality healthcare in rural western Tennessee.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. White served as Chief of Staff at Henderson County Community Hospital during multiple years where he championed improvements in patient care and hospital services. His leadership extended to mentoring young physicians in his practice and also as a faculty member of the University of Tennessee Family Practice residency program in Jackson, TN. Many of them, including his eldest son and son-in-law, credit him with shaping their careers. Dr. White was also an active member of several organized medical societies, advocating for advancements in rural healthcare and medical education.

He was a rotarian in the Lexington Rotary Club for more than 50 years, serving as president, chair of the Rotarian of the year committee and assistant district governor. He served on multiple committees at First Baptist Church of Lexington, including trustee for over 40 years. He participated in several overseas medical mission trips including Bolivia, Peru,

Haiti, Dominican

Republic and Guatemala. He served on the Henderson County school board from 1968-1976,

acting as chairman for two of those years. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the

Beech River Watershed Development Authority. He was a longtime member of the Tennessee

Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP),

Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) and American Medical Association (AMA). He held

multiple leadership positions in these organizations, serving as president of both the TAFP and

TMA. The Governor of the State of Tennessee appointed Dr. White to four terms on the Board

of Medical Examiners where he was responsible for the licensing of physicians in the state.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. White was a devoted family man.

Pop was

especially devoted to his children and grandchildren and extremely proud of their

accomplishments. He loved to duck hunt, play golf and travel with Joyce and his family. A pillar

of his community, he was admired for his compassion, determination, integrity and dedication.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years Joyce White; his brother, Webb White (Vicky), sister, Jan

Haney (Jim); his children, Charles W. White, Jr. (Pattie), David White (Jami), Dana White

Ellington (Stan), and Ann Maree White Coleman (Keel); his eight

grandchildren, Charles William

White, Jacob David White, Wesley James White, Tucker Kidd White,

Alexandra Nicole Ellington,

Nathan Stanley Ellington (Elizabeth), Collin James Ellington, and Ashe Tilda

Coleman; and one

great-grandson, Baylor Alan Ellington.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, May 14 from 4 to 8pm and on Thursday, May 15 from Noon

until the service starts at 2pm. Visitation and service will be held at First Baptist Church in

Lexington. Burial will follow in Lexington Cemetery with military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Lexington, TN or St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

His family thanks the many caregivers who helped make his last years joyful and comfortable.

Rest in peace, Doc. You are a true healer whose legacy of care and compassion will endure.

Tribute Wall

PF

“ Peggy Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.



Peggy Fitzpatrick - October 15, 2025 at 04:59 PM

BS

“ Beth Siegl lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.



Beth Siegl - May 15, 2025 at 07:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr..

May 14, 2025 at 11:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr..

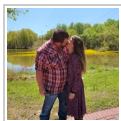


May 14, 2025 at 11:50 AM

TH

“ *My grandmother Maude Duke loved Dr White. When Dr White found out she was my Grandmother he popped into the hospital pharmacy to warmly chat about her. The love and caring went both ways.*

Teresa Holimon - May 14, 2025 at 10:41 AM



My condolences to all of his family and friends. I will have you all in my prayers 🙏

Jennifer Plunk - May 15, 2025 at 02:23 AM

WF

“ *With love, Dr. Sanders & the FACS Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr..*



With love, Dr. Sanders & the FACS Family - May 14, 2025 at 09:31 AM

BW

“ *Barbara Willis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Barbara Willis - May 13, 2025 at 11:03 PM

BW

Dr.Charles was good man will missed Prayer to all of his family.Love to Joyce and family.

Barbara Willis - May 13, 2025 at 11:09 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Willis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Barbara Willis - May 13, 2025 at 10:39 PM

LV

“ *Lydia Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Lydia Vaughn - May 13, 2025 at 10:39 PM

AL

“ *Agnes Lemley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Agnes Lemley - May 13, 2025 at 10:04 PM

AL

Dr. White was our physician when we moved to Lexington in 1970. Joyce and became friends doing Girl Scout activities with our kids. My deepest sympathy to the White family.

Agnes Lemley - May 13, 2025 at 10:10 PM

DL

“ I was one of Dr. White's first patients in Lexington and he always kind and considerate. In 2005 we evacuated to Lexington because of Hurricane Katrina and he treated my mother during our time there. Those are the kinds of things he did for people throughout his career. Dr. White was a good, good man,

Deborah Lewis - May 13, 2025 at 07:56 PM

TH

My grandmother loved Dr White. When Dr White found out she was my Grandmother he popped into the hospital pharmacy, to chat about her. The love and caring went both ways.

Teresa Holimon - May 14, 2025 at 10:37 AM

LI

Dr White was our family Dr. he delivered both of my Children. My husband and I both thought a lot of Dr. White. He was a good caring doctor.

linda Ivey - May 14, 2025 at 02:55 PM

GM

“ Gina Martin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.



Gina Martin - May 13, 2025 at 07:24 PM

SF

“ Sue McPeake And Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.



Sue McPeake and family - May 13, 2025 at 07:21 PM

SF

Family dr for many years. Rest in peace Dr White

Sue McPeake and family - May 13, 2025 at 07:22 PM

LI

“ *Linda lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Linda - May 13, 2025 at 07:02 PM

TL

“ *Ted And Deborah Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.*



Ted and Deborah Lewis - May 13, 2025 at 07:01 PM

KM

“ *He was the best !!! He will truly be missed by all. Prayers for peace and comfort for the day's ahead 🙏*



Karen McPeake - May 13, 2025 at 03:19 PM

JP

“ I worked with Dr White at UT for several years. I always looked forward to his stories and jokes. He was quite the character. Often terribly opinionated but deeply respected and I considered him a dear friend. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Joan Porter - May 13, 2025 at 02:56 PM

RB

“ Prayers for the White family. He was our family physician for many years but more importantly, a family friend.

Roger Brooks - May 13, 2025 at 02:55 PM

BO

“ I would like to share a statement from my Sunday School teacher at First Baptist, Dr. Wesley Jones, he said this to me years ago and I never forget his view of Dr. White. “Charlie White is the best Family Practice Physician, I ever knew “. Coming from Dr. Jones that was a great comment.

BobbyCogdell - May 13, 2025 at 02:50 PM

SS

“ The Meyer family thought the world of Dr. White. We loved being neighbors. He took wonderful care of us all! Thoughts and prayers are with his family. 🙏

Sherrill Schaffer - May 13, 2025 at 02:33 PM

SC

“ Prayers of comfort for Dr. White's family



Stan Clayton - May 13, 2025 at 02:15 PM

RS

Dear Joyce and family. Dr White became our Dr when moving to Lexington. He was a man of Spiritual Strength and his legacy reveals that. Joyce, thank your for your love of family, service to First Baptist, your community and mainly your desire to reach others for Christ. Sandy and I want to thank you for your support when she and I had the opportunity to serve at First Baptist Lexington. We send our love and prayers for you and your family. Richard and Sandy Savage

Richard Savage - May 15, 2025 at 06:58 PM

EA

“ Eddie & Lori Akins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Wesley White Sr.



Eddie & Lori Akins - May 13, 2025 at 01:43 PM

HD

“ Charlie was one of the first friends I met and made in 1968 when I returned home from college.
We remained friends. He was a good one.

Howard Douglass - May 13, 2025 at 01:43 PM