



## Dr. Ernest P. Palmer

April 13, 1932 - May 7, 2018

Dr. Ernest P. Palmer, died peacefully with his family by his side May 7, 2018. He was 86.

Dr. Palmer was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a graduate of Memphis State University, Western Reserve University and the University of Tennessee Medical School. His post-graduate work included a Fellowship in Pathology (University of Tennessee), Rotating Internship (Charity Hospital, New Orleans), OB-GYN Residency (Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans), General Practice (New Orleans), General Surgery Residence (Veterans Administration Hospital and Variety Children's Hospital, Miami, FL).

After completing his education and training, Dr. Palmer began searching for a small clinic-hospital where he could have close access to his patients during their treatment and hospitalization. He found what he was looking for in Wauchula, and for the next 42 years he served this area through his medical practice.

He served as Chief of Staff at Hardee Memorial Hospital and as Medical Director for Hardee Manor, Desoto Health and Rehab and the Hardee Correctional Institution.

Dr. Palmer was a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church, serving as a

Deacon and as a medical missionary in Brazil and New Guinea.

Dr. Palmer was involved with Hardee County Athletics for many years. In 1965, he became the side-line doctor for the Hardee Wildcats, serving for the next 13 years. In 1970, Dr. Palmer unofficially started Hardee Youth Football by bringing kids home after school to practice, serving as the president of the league from 1971-1984.

During his military service, he boxed his way to the Keesler Air Force Base Championship in 1952.

Palmer had several hobbies and pursued them with passion. He enjoyed running and completed several marathons, including the Boston Marathon. He loved salt water and scuba diving, becoming a certified Master Scuba Diver. He also obtained his pilot's license and enjoyed flying small aircraft.

Dr. Palmer is survived by his wife of 62 years, Gayle M. Palmer, four children, Lisa Dickerson, Leigh (Joe) Lamonica, Steve (Jennifer) Palmer and West (Laina) Palmer; ten grandchildren, Katie, Jaime, Weston, Savannah, Kelly, Kelsey, Summer, Luke, Ellie and Sam; and two great grandchildren, Reese and Palmer Grace. He was preceded in death by his parents Ernest P. Palmer and Lucile Glanville and son-in-law Larry Dickerson.

His family will be forever grateful for the excellent care he received from the wonderful nurses and staff at Florida Hospital Wauchula, many of whom had worked together with him in the past. A special thank you to Senator Denise Grimsley and Dr. Kathy H. Lee for their compassion and expertise.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wauchula Cemetery.

The greatest among you will be your servant. Matthew 23:11.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wauchula Cemetery  
Wauchula, FL 33873

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ He was a Great doctor and father. Very supportive in all they did.

*I remember the first time I made cheerleader was supposed to go to camp in a few days; I came up with strep throat, he got me fixed up with meds so I could go like right before we left, which was awesome. God bless y'all*

*Debbie Revell aka "Little Debbie*

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**debbie revell** - May 31, 2018 at 04:03 PM

CD

“ Dr. Palmer was the kindest doctor my mother (Evelyn Eures) had  
She respected him greatly

*Carolyn Davis*

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**Carolyn Davis** - May 11, 2018 at 05:24 PM

KD

“ Our deepest sympathy for the entire family. May Jesus hold all of  
you close and bless you with comfort and hope.

*Ken and Jeanenne Dickerson*

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**Ken Dickerson** - May 11, 2018 at 02:31 PM

MG

“ Thoughts & prayers go out for Dr. Palmer's family. So sorry for your  
loss.

*Malinda Gillilan*

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**Malinda Gililan** - May 09, 2018 at 08:50 PM

MD

“ Gayle,

*I send my love and sympathy to you and your family. You have been by friends for too many years to remember. May God comfort you and keep you during your time of sorrow. You are so lucky to have such a large family to comfort each other.*

*Your friend,  
Martha Dease*

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**Martha Dease** - May 09, 2018 at 07:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer.*



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May 09, 2018 at 11:11 AM

 Ernest  
Ziglar

“ *I loved Dr. Palmer, he fixed my broken arm in 1969 and over the years he was fantastic to my friends and family, God bless. Thank you for your service to Hardee county*

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**Ernest Ziglar** - May 09, 2018 at 08:51 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer.*



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May 09, 2018 at 08:37 AM



“Hearing this greatly saddens me. Dr. Palmer was a wonderful Doctor and he treated me as not just a patient but family. He showed me light in the darkest parts of my life. Although i will not be there in person, i will be there in heart. Rest peacefully Dr. P. and thank you for putting up with me and my craziness for so many years. With much Love, Mary Lovette Callahan, NC



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**Mary Callahan** - May 09, 2018 at 08:24 AM



“I did not know Dr Palmer. However, because of his hard work and dedication I have been fortunate enough to work with the Hardee Wildcats. I have met some really great people out there and I have had some wonderful times.

*Without the vision of Dr. Palmer none of that would have ever been possible.*

*For that I say thank you sir and may you have eternal rest.*

*Rich Walker  
Bradenton, FL*

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**Richard Walker** - May 09, 2018 at 04:16 AM

“He was our dr, for many years. He saved my life more than once. My family loved him too

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**Shirley Williams Huber** - May 08, 2018 at 03:07 PM

SH

“ My fondest memory was being his Medical Assistant and hearing him sing as he strolled down the hallway to his favorite Opera.... he truly was a wonderful man with a Christian heart and gave me great advice in my life...what an Angel Heaven has gained 🙏

sheila sikes haymans - May 08, 2018 at 02:34 PM

PR

“ Pat Richardson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer



Pat Richardson - May 08, 2018 at 02:25 PM

PR

My condolences to the family, I was born at the Palmetto Clinic and he was our family doctor for several years.

Pat Richardson - May 08, 2018 at 02:30 PM

BS

“ Brent Stephens lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer



Brent Stephens - May 08, 2018 at 01:32 PM

BS

“ I am saddened to hear of the loss of such an extraordinary person. Doctor Palmer was always a person that led by doing. Doctor Palmer and Mrs. Gayle were instrumental parts of my life and I will never be able to thank them enough for always allowing me to tag along with their family. The memories I have will always be cherished.

*As I grow older, I often reflect on the things that truly matter in life. Oftentimes, the world judges people on major accomplishments achieved or monuments/awards won. I believe the most important legacy a person can leave behind is in the gift of fond memories, for family and friends, and the contributions and impacts made by their children. I have had the privilege of being very close to all of Dr. Palmer's children and I will always be blessed for knowing them. They are all exceptional individuals that positively impact everyone that knows them. Mrs Gayle and Dr Palmer have made sure that they have created a legacy that will always make a positive influence*

*E.P., thank you for being such a wonderful man, father, and husband. Even though I still, to this day, have NO idea what the music was you listened to in your office, it always made me smile to hear it. You were always a great role model and friend. Enjoy eternity worshipping our savior. It is well earned.*

*All my love to the Palmer Family. You will always be in a special place in my heart and my prayers.*

*Love Always,  
Brent Stephens*

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**Brent Stephens** - May 08, 2018 at 01:17 PM

EL

“ *Loved his down to earth persona*



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**elly** - May 08, 2018 at 01:02 PM

TP

“ *Tammy Pearson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer*



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**Tammy Pearson** - May 08, 2018 at 12:45 PM

 Donna  
Ingram-  
Rohler

“ *Donna Ingram-Rohler lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer*



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**Donna Ingram-Rohler** - May 08, 2018 at 12:37 PM

 Donna  
Ingram-

*Prayers for the family and a final thank you to the fine doctor who helped save my son many years ago. God bless you*

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**Donna Ingram-Rohler** - May 08, 2018 at 12:39 PM

DJ

“ *Danny & Maryann Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Ernest P. Palmer*



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**Danny & Maryann Jenkins** - May 08, 2018 at 12:26 PM

DA

*Prayers for God's comfort*

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**Danny** - May 08, 2018 at 12:27 PM