



Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie

September 20, 1935 - November 22, 2024

Charles Braselton Gillespie, M.D., 89, of Albany, died on Friday, November 22, 2024.

Dr. Gillespie (affectionately known as “Dr. G.”) was born in Franklin, North Carolina on September 20, 1935, the son of the late Charles Ridley Gillespie, M.D. and Rosalyn Braselton Gillespie.

In 1953 he graduated from the George S. Gardiner High School in Laurel, Mississippi. In 1957, he earned a B.S. in Biology (1957) and in 1961 a Doctor of Medicine from Emory University. His primary post-graduate training was at Atlanta’s Grady Memorial Hospital in General Orthopedic Surgery. More specialized training occurred at Oswestry Robert Jones and Agnes Hospital and Wrightington Hospitals in England, Karolinska Institute, in Stockholm, Sweden, and the A.O. Institute, in Davos, Switzerland.

Dr. Gillespie and his wife have lived in Albany since 1966 when he began his surgical practice as an Orthopedic surgeon. He later founded the Albany Orthopedic Clinic, more recently known as the Albany Orthopedic Center. In the mid-1970s, he was awarded Fellowships in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American and International College of Surgeons.

In 1972 after being appointed as the first director of the Emergency program by Governor Jimmy Carter, Dr. Gillespie provided the initial leadership to develop the local and statewide Emergency Medical Service programs. In recent years, the Georgia Legislature designated him as the “Grandfather of

E.M.S” for his pioneering work in the E.M.S. program. He was also recognized as the designer of Georgia E.M.T.’s identification patches. He was the co-author of the first Cardiac Technician Curriculum that was used for many years by EMS educators throughout the nation. Of particular note was his authorship of the Emergency Medical Technicians Oath and Prayer, published in most of the E.M.T. Training textbooks and used as part of the ethical training courses in EMS systems worldwide.

In addition to his E.M.S. service, he received numerous local and state awards. The most notable was the Medical Association of Georgia’s 1995 Lamartine Hardman Cup, the highest award presented to a Georgia Physician. In 2009, after receiving the Department of Defense’s/U.S. Navy/Marine Corps 2009 Fisher Humanitarian Award, he was given the honorary title of “Civilian Marine’ by the Logistics Systems Commander of the Albany Marine Base.

As a result of his work in different organizations, over the years he was awarded the Albany Lions Club Citizen of the Year award, Exchange Club’s Golden Deeds Award, Sertoma Clubs of Albany Service to Mankind Award, Governor of Georgia’s Volunteer Service Award, Executive Commendation Award for E.M.S. work, the Georgia Legislature Commendation of E.M.S. Work on the E.M.T. Oath, the Georgia E.M.S. Worker of Year Award, Southwest Georgia E.M.S. Director’s;s Appreciation Award, Georgia Ambulance and Rescue Association Award, First Annual John B. O’Neal E.M.S. Pioneer Award, Georgia Association of Emergency Services Chairman’s Award, Georgia Association of E.M.T.’s designation of the “Charles B. Gillespie, M.D. Medical Directors Award”, Department of Defense Certificate of Commendation on E.M.S./M.A.S.T., Helicopter Service, Dougherty County Commission Service Award, Citizens Advisory Committee Service Appreciation Award, Board of Education Athletic Service Appreciation Award, Albany Chamber of Commerce 10 year Service to the Governor’s Military Affairs Committee, appointments as Lt. Colonels on Governor George Busbee and Zell Miller’s staff, and in November 2008. the Albany Vocational

College's designation of the "Charles B. Gillespie, M.D. First Responder Training Center" building and was subsequently designated as their "Roastee for 2010".

Dr. G was also known as an accomplished photographer, a skill that he steadily improved by attending many workshops throughout the country, such as the Ansel Adams's Yosemite and DeWitt Jones's Maine Photography Courses. His photographic portfolio includes images from all but one of the United States and more than sixty countries. During trips to Australia, New Zealand, and several tours in Alaska, he traveled with his long-time friend author/photographer, the late Bill Thomas. During a visit to his home studio one would see exhibited on a wall many ribbons and awards for his photography, including one for the Georgia Council on Humanities -Traveling Exhibit Award during the 1992 Olympics and for an exhibit in the Governor's Office in 1994.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Rosalyn Gillespie, sister-in-law, Jane Dennard, brothers-in-law, Bob Dennard, David Thomas, and Jesse Sparkman, and his son-in-law Steve Baker. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Raines Gillespie, son Rickey Gillespie (Katrin), daughter Kathy Baker Estep (Woody), granddaughters Raines Baker and Ridley Baker, and his sister Ann Sparkman.

The family will receive friends on Friday, November 29th from 4:00 until 5:30 PM at Kimbrell-Stern.

Those desiring may make donations to Albany Technical College Foundation (First Responder Program) at 1707 South Slappey Boulevard, Albany, Georgia 31701, or to your favorite charity.

Cemetery Details

Braselton Family Memorial Cemetery

Braselton, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr Gillespie was my physician and surgeon. He found the reason I walked in pain for such a long time and, despite complications, made it possible to improve my situation.*

Also, even though he was unable to save him, he also correctly diagnosed a very close which allowed my friend to properly say a timely good bye to his family and friends.

I will always remember him.

Kathleen Bailey - December 19, 2024 at 09:44 PM



“ *From Nancy and Doug Lorber, Dr. G thank you and your family for your commitment to your community. Your support of Theatre Albany was a blessing. Thank you for being a kind and gentle soul who knew how to make us laugh and enjoy life. You will be so missed. May your name be a blessing.*

douglas lorber - December 02, 2024 at 10:27 AM

DR

“ *Dr. Gillespie would not let me say no when he was recruiting me to join him at Albany Orthopedic Center. That is how he was, when he made up his mind, no one could say no. If there was a problem, he called the president of the company out of meetings to solve the problem. His drive made AOC what it was - a family - and made the medical community in Albany so much better. He pushed me and everyone around him to be the best we could be.*

Dr. Dan & Bonnie Rhoads



Daniel D Rhoads - November 30, 2024 at 04:25 PM

JF

“ 🙏 *My deepest sympathy to Carolyn, Rickey, Kathy, Ann Sparkman and their families. Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie was a brilliant surgeon and will be dearly missed. I recall wonderful memories in Braselton, Georgia while visiting the home of our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Braselton. I will be making a donation in memory of my first cousin Dr. Charles Gillespie to My City Youth Center in Hemet, CA.*

💕 *Janet Braselton Laird Fulton*

Janet Braselton Laird Fulton - November 29, 2024 at 03:50 PM

GR

“ *Dr. Gillispie was always helpful in anything we needed in EMS, many great things are said in his honor and apply to most all of us who worked with him, along side him and in general! Thank you for all you did for EMS and Georgia! Greg Rowe*

Greg rowe - November 27, 2024 at 12:13 PM

DH

“ *Dr. Gillespie did countless wonderful things for our community including our emergency medical services program. The Gillespies were wonderful neighbors and my love goes to Carolyn, Ricky and Kathy and extended family. May light perpetual shine upon him.*



Debbie Hambley - November 27, 2024 at 12:09 PM

CH

“ *This was a wonderful and inspiring medical man. He will be missed by this community and his friends. Love to Carolyn and children.*

Carolyn Hatcher - November 27, 2024 at 12:07 PM

FF

“ *From the Pinzas family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie.*



From the Pinzas family - November 27, 2024 at 12:20 AM

JL

“ *Jean Larson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie*



Jean Larson - November 26, 2024 at 10:07 PM

DP

“ I enjoyed working with and learning from Dr G while being a physical therapist at palmyra hospital. He always put his patients first!

Dr. Matt Hornsby PT - November 26, 2024 at 08:24 PM

CP

“ When I became a Paramedic it was just a way to make a living while I was learning to be a Pilot. Then to actually meet the man who worked so hard to help create the EMS profession in Georgia it was incredible. He took me under his wing and it did not take me long to convince Dr. Anthony Parker to name the First Responder Training center after this wonderful man. To be the person he gave some of his prized EMS processions to was so very humbling. I will never forget his soft tone, his tender heart and his love to be the person behind the scenes making it all happen. He was such a forward thinker, so generous and loved to make you laugh. He had an eye for the best and he gave 100% every day. His legacy will live on. Gods speed Charlie G. Thank you for all the lives you have touched, including mine.

Charles Proctor - November 26, 2024 at 06:40 PM

DC

“ Deepest sympathy to Dr Gillespie's family. He was such a nice man and did so much good for our community. Albany was lucky to have him. He was the epitome of a Renaissance man

Debbie CHambless

Debbie CHambless - November 26, 2024 at 06:04 PM

PM

“ Dr. Gillespie was a brilliant man whose life was all about making everyone else’s better.
Whether working the EMT program,
Having a great idea to share when I was president of the Chamber,
or making sure his patients had the best of the best care!
Carolyn, Kathy and Ricky, I know you grieve to see him leave us,
but I can assure you God will meet him with”welcome my good and faithful
Servant”. All of our lives have been enriched by this great man.

Patsy Martin - November 26, 2024 at 04:53 PM

JR

“ I am thankful to Dr. Gillespie for his friendship and leadership. He introduced me to emergency medicine and encouraged me to become an EMT (#5910) in the 70’s. Sincere condolences to his family and prayers that he rests in peace. 🙏🌹🙏



janice route-blaylock - November 26, 2024 at 02:01 PM

LP

“ Lamar Potts sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie



Lamar Potts - November 26, 2024 at 11:44 AM

GB

“ Ginny Blackburn Barnes lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Braselton Gillespie



Ginny Blackburn Barnes - November 26, 2024 at 11:06 AM

JJ

“ Dr Gillespie is synonymous with photography. He was always enthusiastic. RIP

Joel and Diane Johnson - November 26, 2024 at 07:05 AM

CL

“ RIP Dr Gillespie.... I know my dad met you at the Gate... My deepest sympathy for your loss to his family and friends 🙏



Connie Pate Lundy - November 25, 2024 at 05:50 PM

JB

“ I would not have a left arm without Dr Gillespie! He was the best! Rest well



Janice Bettencourt - November 25, 2024 at 05:47 PM