



## Dr. O. Grey Rawls, Jr. Obituary

February 4, 1923 - January 28, 2012

Dr. O. Grey Rawls, Jr. MD passed away Saturday, January 28, 2012 at his residence. Funeral services will be held Monday, January 30, 2012 at 11:00AM at Covenant Presbyterian Church with interment to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. Dr. Paul Luthman and Dr. William "Biff" Coker will officiate.

Dr. O. Grey Rawls was a prominent surgeon and practiced medicine in Albany for about forty years. He was born in Pike County Georgia to Mary Baker Rawls and Otis Grey Rawls. He graduated from Spalding High School and entered Emory University. After graduation, he attended Emory Medical School. He received his postgraduate medical training at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, New York and Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. While in New York, he met his wife, Betty Wheat and they were married in 1949. They were married for fifty four years and were blessed with three lovely daughters, Debra Rawls Pricola and her husband, Mike of Port Hueneme, California, Ann Rawls Spiak and her husband, Drew of Portland, Oregon and Nancy Grey Rawls Smith and her husband, Stacy of Savannah, Georgia, four granddaughters, Holly D. Valles, of Stockton, California Christy Dalton of Lodi, California, Brandy D. Gomez of Stockton, California and Shawna Grigg of Atlanta, Georgia. Two sisters, Mrs. Betty R. Copeland of Williamson, Georgia and Mrs. Nancy T Ethridge of Griffin, Georgia. His devotion to his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren never wavered; his passion to serve his fellow man never waned, as his family, friends, co-workers and

patients will attest.

A man of sterling character, Dr. Rawls was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon. He was a member of Phoebe Putney Hospital Board for ten years and had formerly served as president of the Dougherty County Medical Society, a member of the Georgia Medical Medicaid Surgery Review, chairman of the United Way, president of The Rotary Club and member of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Board. Dr. Rawls was a recipient of the Albany Exchange Club Golden Deed Award, a true testament of his unflinching altruism. He served for many years on the boards of First Federal Savings and Loan and Darton College Foundation.

Dr. Rawls was a World War II veteran, retiring as a captain in the medical corps in 1949. He was an accomplished horseman, winning first place in the AM division of the Georgia Cutting Horse Association. He was also an avid aviator who enjoyed the freedom of the sky; yet, he also had a deep connection with the farmland, as he considered himself a farmer and cattleman. Free of pretension and conceit, Dr. Rawls embodied all the great qualities of a family man, scholar, physician and humanitarian; but most importantly, he was a gentleman-genteel, courtly and above all else, sincerely interested in the well-being of others.

His companion, Peggy Cullars Guillebeau, expressed this sentiment about Grey: "I have been truly blessed to be a part of his life in his later years and his passing will leave a void in the lives of all of us who were fortunate enough to call Grey our friend. He never stopped loving his wife, Betty but he never let her passing deter him from sharing his love with others." One of Grey's favorite quotes from Winston Churchill was, "We make a living by what we get. We make life by what we give."

Memorials may be made to Albany Community Hospice at 320 Foundation Lane, Albany, GA 31721.

You may sign the guestbook and share your thoughts with the family of Dr. Grey Rawls by visiting our website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2126 WW. Edgewater Dr.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. O. Grey Rawls, Jr. Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I was scrolling through today and saw where Dr. Rawls had passed away. I wanted to express my sincerest condolences to you all at this time. I was a patient of Dr. Rawls in 1979 when I had been diagnosed with a malignant tumor in my upper back. Dr. Crimmins referred me to Dr. Rawls. He operated on me and was very diligent to take care of my physical needs. I was 20 years old at that time.*

*Obviously this was a difficult time being so young. I will always remember the care that Dr. Rawls gave me. I am 53 years old now and serve in full time ministry as Senior Pastor in Jesup, Ga. after serving in Griffin, Ga. for 15 years.*

*I have talked about Dr. Rawls many times over the years with great appreciation. May the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you at this time.*

Rev. Thomas Powell - Jesup, GA - Patient - April 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Dr Rawls will be missed by many. In my mental book of people I have met and admire Dr Rawls is amongst the top. My family benifited from his surgical skills on too many occasions to count. His home in the neighborhood was always a stopping point in my growing years and the popcorn balls that Betty made warm my heart evertime I think about them. If anyone has earned their eternal peace and rest it is Dr Rawls. Ann, Nancy Grey, and Debra the sacrifice ya'll made to share your dad with his patients will be appreciated for years to come. I appreciate what your parents did in Brentwood back in the day! God speed to you and your family.*

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**Steven Holloway - Albany, GA - friend and patient** - February 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *To Nancy Grey, family and friends,  
I pray for you during this time and days to come. It is a painful time. I have been there. Remember all the memorials and keep his memory alive in your hearts and your every day life. Nancy, it is great that you were there with him, you will be blessed and have that wonderful, yet painful memory. You will cherish as the days go by.*

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**Linda Kaapa - Savannah, GA - Co-Worker of Nancy Grey** - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *The finest, most gentle man I have known; a true Southern Gentleman I was blessed to have known and learned from him. He will be missed, but never forgotten.*

*My condolences to Nancy Grey, Debra, and Ann; I am sorry for your loss.*

*Jim*

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**Jim Grigg - Keller, TX - Friend** - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *Nancy and family, my thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Nancy, I am so thankful that you were able to be at your father's side. I know that the fact that you were there with your father must have been comforting to him in his last moments.*

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**Sarah Moorhead - Savannah, GA - co-worker of his daughter, Nancy** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Dr. Rawls was a wonderful, sweet soul, from "Cordelly," as he liked to call it with a big grin, that I was so fortunate to know when I was growing up as a friend of his daughter, Nancy. I spent a lot of time at their house and saw how lovingly he cared for his family and how he always made me feel welcome. He pierced my ears and taught me how to skeet shoot. I saw what a great father he was to Nancy and her sisters, and I know they will miss him deeply.*

*Much love to Nancy and Ann, and sincere condolences to the whole family and close friends,*

*Leigh Ann*

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**Leigh Ann Spence** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Debra, Ann, Mrs. Guillebeau and Families, My thoughts, prayers and love are with you all. Dr. Rawls is remembered for his kind and giving heart. Caring and generous with his time and energy, he was so well respected and admired by his patients and peers. A humble gentleman with great expectations and a serious look, Dr. Rawls would extend a nod and sweet smile, when he would pass me in the halls of Phoebe Putney. May God bless and keep you, let his light shine upon you and grant you his unexplainable peace and love, until you are reunited with your Mama and Daddy in heaven. Loving thoughts.

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**Deane Lamb-Ellis - Cordele, GA - Daughter's high school friend** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Peggy, we are thinking of you deeply. It was indeed a pleasure being in Grey's company during your visits home (Lincolnton). I know you will miss him and God bless you for once again being such a caring person. Your loving cousin, Carolyn and Bradey

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**Bradey and Carolyn Link - Cayce, SC - Peggy's cousin** - January 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ It was with sadness that I read in the Albany Herald of the passing of Dr. Rawls. I, too, am a native of Williamson, Georgia, and grew up within sight of the home and farm of Otis and Mary Rawls, and remember well them and their activities in church and community. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet Dr. Rawls; he left home for school and career before I was born. Reading his obituary, however, informs me of what I missed in not knowing him. In memory and honor of his parents, sisters, and other family members that I extend my sincere condolences in your time of great loss.

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**David Shivers - Sasser, GA** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am grateful to Dr. Rawls for the kindness that he always showed to my parents in their best years, and, most especially, in their last years. I am thankful for the wonderful times I spent at his home in the company of his daughter Ann. He and his wife were always very, very nice. I am grateful for such wonderful memories.

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**Jean Lamb - Leesburg, GA - Friend** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Peggy and Family,  
Dr. Rawls will be remembered by all who knew him. He was such a great physician and person. I first knew him when he became my grandmother's doctor back in the 50's. You all are in my prayers.  
Janice Garey

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**Janice Garey - Albany, GA - friend** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Peggy and family:  
What a true Southern gentleman was Dr. Grey Rawls! I always enjoyed  
being in his company, because he was so bright and witty.  
He was a good and faithful Rotarian until his health would no longer allow  
participation. A great man and a friend to so very many. Dr. Rawls  
will  
be missed by all.

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**Patsy Martin - Albany, GA - friend** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Love and precious memories of the man I was proud to call Uncle. He always shared wisdom and humor. I enjoyed riding his bus route and listening to his stories. Romans 14:8 and John 14

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**Diane Skelton - Baton Rouge, LA - niece** - January 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Dr. Rawls was ‘a world class’ surgeon. He was a great friend and help to my dad, Bubba. I’d like to think they are figuring out how to farm those clouds as we grieve his loss to us on Earth. My sincere sympathy to his girls and their families.

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**Elizabeth Champion - Albany, GA - long time family friend** - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I was blessed to have known your father, grandfather, and friend. I was his nurse at Albany Surgical for several years soon after finishing nursing school and always said he was the smartest man I ever knew. He taught me so much. I still tried to call him every year on his birthday. I will always cherish his memory as I know you will.

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**Cindy Summerlin - Camilla, GA - His nurse at Albany Surgical** - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ We are saddened by the loss of such a true Southern Gentleman. He was a wonderful Doctor and friend. Just hold tight to all those precious memories.

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**Rodney & Walda Pitts - Leesburg, GA - friend** - January 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM