



William McArthur Dannelly

August 29, 1935 - June 16, 2020

Dr. William McArthur "Bill" Dannelly, Sr. of Lady Lake passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 in Leesburg, at the age of 84.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Kathryn; his devoted dog, Biscuit; four children, Bill Dannelly (Kayla) of Peachtree City, GA, Pat Dannelly (Kristi) of Crownsville, MD, Carol O'Kelley (Brooks) of Dunwoody, GA, and Pam Seegars (Joe) of Dunwoody; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Bobbie Dannelly of Grady, AL; thirteen grandchildren, Alexandra Peck of New York, NY, Ryann Dannelly of Jersey City, NJ, Virginia Dannelly of Atlanta, GA, Hanna Dannelly of Philadelphia, PA, Sarah-Catherine Dannelly of Atlanta, Jack Dannelly of Baltimore, MD, Owen Dannelly of Crownsville, Cate O'Kelley of Dunwoody, Gretchen Seegars of Dunwoody, Mick Dannelly of Crownsville, Davis O'Kelley of Dunwoody, Mac Dannelly of Peachtree City, and Henry Seegars of Dunwoody; and 16 nieces and nephews.

Dr. Dannelly graduated from the University of Alabama in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and then studied dentistry at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, where he was a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, an honorary dental society, graduating in 1961. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and served on the dental staff of the U.S. Marine Corp's Recruit Depot at Parris Island. He earned a Naval award for Outstanding Performance of Duty for his service on the USS Yellowstone, then based at Mayport in Jacksonville. Following an honorable discharge at the completion of his duty, Dr. Dannelly matriculated at

the St. Louis University School of Dentistry, where he earned a degree in orthodontics in 1967.

Dr. Dannelly founded Lake County's first orthodontic practice in 1967, practicing in Leesburg until his retirement. He also practiced in Ocala. He was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, worshipping at Community United Methodist Church in Fruitland Park until his death.

A private service for his immediate family will be held later this month. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home at 51 Main Street, Enterprise FL 32725.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Kathryn, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Bill. He was a very nice man and he will be missed at church. You and your family will be in my prayers.

Barbara Burgess - June 26, 2020 at 11:16 PM

FH

“ I am so sorry. I enjoyed Bill's company at our Tuesday Morning Pray Breakfast. I will miss him.

Fred Hellmig

Fred Hellmig - June 26, 2020 at 11:41 AM

GJ

“ To the family I extend my deepest sympathies for your loss. While I was never a patient of Dr. Dannelly's, I spent many days and evenings at the Dannelly home and enjoyed their warmth and welcome of my presence. As a classmate of his son, Pat, I enjoyed many days at their home listening to the music of Maynard Ferguson and other jazz greats as well as out on the lake waterskiing. No matter the occasion, the Dannelly home was always welcoming and I enjoyed the many invitations to stay for dinner. I thank Dr. and Mrs. Dannelly for allowing me make lasting memories with your family and I pray for you all as you mourn. May God's blessing fill your heart with comfort and peace.

Gordon Johnson and the extended Johnson Family

Gordon Johnson - June 25, 2020 at 12:40 PM

“ His wife and children remember Dr. Dannelly as an exemplary family patriarch. After his father's sudden death in 1972, he tirelessly cared for his widowed mother. Since she never learned to drive, he could be seen chauffeuring his mother to church, the hairdresser, the fabric store, and on endless errands for 25 years. He expected his family to eat dinner together nightly. Dr. Dannelly's children knew there was no acceptable excuse for being late for dinner, and after they were grown, he often laughed thinking back on the squealing tires as his teenaged children peeled into the driveway in the nick of time for dinner.

Dr. Dannelly encouraged his children to work hard, take their educations seriously, and be self-reliant. He treated his sons and daughters with surprising equality for the time. All of his children left home with an unusual core set of skills including how to fix a broken sprinkler head, change a tire, parallel park, balance a checkbook (some were better than others at this), and type. Much to the chagrin of Mrs. Fretwell, Leesburg High School's long-suffering typing teacher, who must have thought the Dannelly children were the most inept typists she'd encountered, Dr. Dannelly insisted all four of his children learn proper typing technique. Although considered torturous at the time, in retrospect, all have expressed gratitude for the hard-earned skill.

He had an enormous intellectual curiosity that did not diminish with age. When his children learned computer programming in the 1980s, he and his wife enrolled in computer science classes at Lee Adult High School in Leesburg, saying, When your children know more about something than you do, it's time to go back to school. He was a self-taught mechanic, plumber, electrician, carpenter, tile mason, gardener, and investor, who never paid someone else to do a job he could manage himself. He chased an armadillo out of his yard just a few days before his death. Under his guidance, his children split logs, chopped wood, dug ditches, laid sod, and raised barbed-wire fences although the older three harbor some resentment that the youngest never had to mow the lawn.

Dr. Dannelly is also remembered as having a great sense of fun teaching his children and their friends to water ski, building fires in the fireplace even if it meant turning on the air conditioning, and occasionally venturing into the kitchen to hand-crank ice cream, boil peanuts, or make pancakes with his secret ingredient. His children swear no one could make a tastier grilled cheese sandwich. For many years, he helped his wife shell pecans, and put up conch peas and creamed corn, on which the family feasted throughout the winter. He loved a good tomato, but could not abide loud music, fans of SEC schools who root against other SEC schools, and cucumbers.

He met the real love his life in 2011, when he and Kathryn rescued a Bichon Frise-Poodle puppy named Biscuit. Dr. Dannelly spoiled his canine companion to a level his own family never knew. One grandchild lamented, Granddad takes Biscuit for a walk 8 times a day, but he has never taken me for a walk. The grandchildren took some pleasure in knowing Dr. Dannelly had convinced Biscuit that green beans were a treat something his grandchildren know isn't true.

Dr. Dannelly was an accomplished gardener, one skill he did not pass along to his children in spite of years of impressing them into service in the yard of the family home on Lake Harris. In recent years, his dahlia garden was envy of his neighbors at Burlingame Country Club in Sapphire, NC. He was also an avid tennis player and golfer until declining health required retiring from athletics.

Carol Dannelly O'Kelley - June 23, 2020 at 12:18 PM

JJ

“ *Kathy, And Family*

*Our deepest condolences for your loss of William "Bill" Dannelly
He was such a wonderful person and father and Grandfather to to
all of you.*

*Our prayers are with all of you,as the Jutras Family prays with you.
God Bless*

J.Normand Jutras - June 20, 2020 at 03:26 PM