



Dr. Ernest Forsten

January 31, 1935 - April 3, 2008

Dr. Ernest Albin Forsten went home to be with his Lord on Thursday, April 3, 2008. He will always be remembered as a beloved husband, father, grandfather and physician who loved his family and community deeply.

Born on January 31, 1935 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Ernest John and Gerda Lydia Forsten who preceded him in death. The family moved to Dayton in 1949 where he graduated from Rhea Central High School in 1952. Dr. Forsten continued with his undergraduate work and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1956. He then entered UT School of Medicine in Memphis to pursue his lifelong dream of practicing medicine.

He graduated medical school in June of 1960 and began his internship at Holston Valley Community Hospital in Kingsport. Soon after completing his internship he joined the United States Army and practiced as Base Physician and Surgeon in Savannah, Illinois. After his military career, he returned to Chattanooga for a year of surgery residency at Erlanger in 1964 before beginning his practice in Dayton, which extended over 20 years. His experience and love of family practice allowed him to attain his board certification by the American Academy of Family Physicians in 1979 as a Fellow and further as a Diplomat by the American Board of Family Practice in 1985.

Throughout the years, Dr. Forsten served multiple terms as Chief of Staff and was an active member of the Rhea County Hospital Board. In 1983 North Park Hospital opened in Hixson, TN, which enabled him to expand his medical career in another lifelong passion, Emergency Medicine. He ultimately returned to a thriving private practice in Hixson where he has led a team of dedicated and devoted healthcare professionals including his nursing and administrative staff affectionately known as “Ernie’s Angels” along with fellow physicians.

Dr. Forsten’s caring and compassionate touch was not only felt by those in our immediate community, but also even in remote regions of Central America. Together with a mission team from Chattanooga, he and his wife ministered through medicine and hope to the men, women and children in a village in Honduras devoid of the basics in healthcare in the spring of 1993. He always considered the experience one of the highlights of his professional and spiritual life.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 51 years, Ginger Brewer Forsten, his daughter Michelle McGraw (husband Darrell), his sons Ernest Stephen (wife Karen) of Knoxville, TN and John Hayes (wife Elizabeth) of Alpharetta, Georgia.

Additionally, his grandchildren include Dustin, Derek and Daniel Holloway, Jacob and Ryan Forsten, Jack, Clayton and Virginia Alden Forsten.

His dedication to the Lord was manifested daily in his life as a member of New Union Baptist Church, and former teacher of Couples for Christ Sunday School Class, Singles Sunday School Class and Deacon at First Baptist Church, Dayton.

Active Pallbearers:

Joe Purser,
Lee Miller,
Jim Sutton,
Robert Hood,
George Lawley,
Eddie Hayes,
Wayne Myers,
Bob Aikman,

Honorary Pallbearers:

Practice Associates & Ernies Angels,
Sunday School Classes – Past and Present,

The service will be held at Vanderwall Funeral Home on Sunday April 6, 2008. Visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 pm with the service following at 3:00 pm with Dr. Danny Ruehling and Rev. Mark Hickman officiating. In lieu of flowers, the Forsten's have suggested memorial gifts to New Union Baptist Church and Precept Ministries of Chattanooga.

Please share your memories on Dr. Forsten's on-line guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

Previous Events

Service
APR 6. 3:00 PM. Chapel

Tribute Wall



“ ebiilpfjqnycnmvwwell, hi admin adn people nice forum indeed. how's life? hope it's introduce branch ;)###imported-begin##Dunkreiniurse##imported-end##

December 31, 2008 at 05:56 PM



“ You Make Me Want MoreReally Interesting, Indulging Website###imported-begin##nike air equalon for women##imported-end##

November 25, 2008 at 02:04 AM



“ Hi!
My name is Jessika!###imported-begin##whancewoose##imported-end##

October 15, 2008 at 05:24 AM



“ Ginger, word's cannot begin to discribe Ernie. He was so good to my mother Eloise Coxey all those year's she worked for him. The time I was going through a horrible divorce, he showed me The Strength Of Our Father to keep me going. The Word Of God. He was there for all of us. My 2 beautiful daughter's he delivered. Thank You for all you've done. I cannot express everyting I would love to say. He was alway's there for Dwight until his untimely death. God Bless You All Joy Such a Godly Man. He's walking those street's of God.###imported-begin##Joyce Ann Coxey Horsley##imported-end##

May 03, 2008 at 07:03 PM



“*Doc, I miss you so much! You were the sweetest man I have ever known. You remind me so much now of how our lives are like your favorite roses ~ beautiful, but fleeting. I'll miss your secret mirror, cowboy boots, and all your stories of mischief and being paid with chickens, fire wood, and vegetables. God saw fit to take you before the Rapture, and it makes me sad to know we will be here without you. Because of you, my life is forever changed. You taught me so much about life and people and God.*

My family is forever grateful for the time we spent with you and your family both in the office and out.

~Buzz, Angel, Raven, Gavin & Bryant Sawyer##imported-begin##Angel Sawyer - MT(ASCP) - "One of Ernie's Angels'##imported-end##

May 01, 2008 at 10:59 AM



“*Dr.Forsten...what an awesome, awesome person. My mom worked with Dr.Forsten for several years. He was such an inspiration and such a special person to me and my entire family. I can't imagine the loss to the Forsten family of such a special person. He meant so much to so many people. It is so hard walking into that office and not seeing him there. He will be missed. Love you, Doc!*

Christie Harvey##imported-begin##Christie Harvey ##imported-end##

April 28, 2008 at 03:17 PM



“ *Dr.Forsten...what an awesome, awesome person. My mom worked with Dr.Forsten for several years. He was such an inspiration and such a special person to me and my entire family. I can't imagine the loss to the Forsten family of such a special person. He meant so much to so many people. It is so hard walking into that office and not seeing him there. He will be missed.*
Christie Harvey##imported-begin##Christie Harvey ##imported-end##

April 28, 2008 at 03:16 PM



“ *Ginger and Family,*
I loved Dr.Forsten . He taught me so much in medicine and in life.We had lots of fun in that ER!! told mom he was the one who taught me it was ok to be a Christian and have fun. You all will be in our prayers .
Love ya,
Renee##imported-begin##Renee (Poole) King##imported-end##

April 27, 2008 at 05:53 PM



“ I cannot begin to tell you how much that I will miss Dr. Forsten. He was a great man, a great doctor, a great family friend, and a man of God. He was my family Doctor most of my life here in Dayton, and then again at his Northpark office. He delivered my son in 1971 at Rhea County Hospital. He kept telling me that I was going to have a girl, and I kept telling "Doc" that I was going to have a boy. He would smile and say "maybe you're right". And when I had my son I cried, and he said "God wanted you to have this boy". I was so happy that day and Dr Forsten and his faith got me thru it. He was also my mom's family doctor for years and years until she had to go into the nursing home 4 years before she passed away Jan 3, 2006. He took so much time and care with her. I will always be grateful that he was her doctor and friend, as well as mine. The last time that I saw "Doc", I was waiting to have blood tests at his office and I heard him talking in the hallway, so I got up and run out to see him and he gave me this big hug and asked me "how I was doing now", not even thinking about himself. I hadn't seen him since he had gotten sick and he was wearing a baseball cap, and I told him that I hadn't ever seen him in a hat before now, he laughed and asked if I wanted his cap. Then we both hugged and He told me that "God" was taking care of him! I know that "Doc" is in a far better place in Heaven and he's with my mom and they are there rejoicing and looking down at us and watching after us until we meet them someday when we are called Home to be with God. I'll ALWAYS remember "DOC" and his clicking boots running down the hallway at his office trying to take care of all his patients. Then coming in my room singing "Oh How I Love Jesus" My heart goes out to all of his family. He will be GREATLY missed. Love in Christ, Pam Grant Montgomery###imported-begin###Pam Grant Montgomery###imported-end##

April 10, 2008 at 04:20 PM



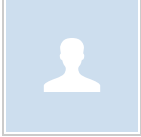
“ Dr. Forsten was our primary care physician for the past several years and also our daughter's, Natalie Crisp, doctor. Even though he was not taking new patients, he agreed to care of my mother when she became too ill to live alone and moved to Hison to live with us. He always took time to share a funny story, talk about Jesus, and inquire about Nstalie and her children. We all agree that he was the kindest most tenderhearted physician that we have ever known. We miss him very much. We are so thankful that we can look forward to spending eternity with him in heaven.##imported-begin##Lewis & Joyce Hammers##imported-end##

April 10, 2008 at 12:03 AM



“ I wanted to let you know that Dr. Forsten was my doctor for many years (age 12-28), except for the last 3 years that I have been on tennicare. Also he was my parents doctor. He was very understanding and took time to listen to his patients. He loved his job and his patients. I work in the medical field, surgery at Erlanger. With rising population and health care cost, It is very hard in this day and age to find someone who cares anymore. They just have so many patients to see and so little time to actually spend listening to the patient. Dr. Forsten will be greatly missed. My sympathy goes out to your family and will keep you in my prayers.
Natalie Crisp##imported-begin##natalie crisp##imported-end##

April 09, 2008 at 11:58 AM



“ I HAVE KNOWN AND WORKED AROUND DR. FORSTEN MANY MANY YEARS STARTING BACK WHEN I WORKED AT RHEA COUNTY HOSPITAL IN THE 70'S. I WORKED AS NURSING ASSISTANT FIRST THEN TOOK MY LPN TRAINING UNDER ANNIE GRIMSLEY AND CAN REMEMBER WHEN I WOULD MAKE STUDENT ROUNDS WITH DR. FORSTEN AND HOW HE WAS ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP US STUDENT'S WITH WHATEVER HE COULD TEACH US. HE WAS ALWAYS A BIG CUTTUP WITH US STUDENT'S AND ALWAYS FUN TO BE AROUND. I CAN WELL REMEMBER WHEN US STUDENT'S WERE THE VICTIMS IN A DISASTER DRILL AND DR. FORSTEN WAS THE DOCTOR. I CAN ESPECIALLY REMEMBER WHEN DIXIE NEWELL WAS SUPPOSE TO BE THE CRAZY PATIENT IN THE DRILL AND WOULD GET UNDER COUNTER IN ER AND WHEN DR. FORSTEN WOULD WALK BY HER SHE WOULD GRAB HIM AROUND THE ANKLE AND WOULD NOT LET GO AND DR. FORSTEN WOULD DRAG HER AROUND THE ROOM AND QUIETLY SAY SOMEBODY GET HER OFF OF ME, I STILL THINK ABOUT THAT TODAY AND LAUGH ABOUT IT. LATER HE CAME TO WORK AT MEMORIAL NORTH PARK HOSPITAL WHERE I HAVE WORKED FOR 34 YEARS AND HE LOOKED AS IF HE HAD NEVER CHANGED IN YEARS OR SPIRIT. DR. FORSTEN WILL BE GREATLY MISSED HERE AT NORTH PARK AND WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ALL IN MY PRAYERS.

CONNIE##imported-begin##CONNIE SILVER,RN,ADM. REP.
MNP##imported-end##

April 08, 2008 at 11:56 PM



“ Dr. Forsten was a good Dr. He told me that he would not retire until the rapture but God had other plans.
Our hearts and prayers are with the family and he will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Dortha Hodge (Aslinger)##imported-end##

April 07, 2008 at 04:49 PM



“ I had the honor of working with Dr. Forsten in the emergency room at North Park for several years (night shift). I was new to the ER and very anxious about "fitting in" and learning how to handle various emergencies. Dr. Forsten took me under his wing and was my mentor. I learned things from him that are not taught in nursing school. He just had that ever assuring, calm manner about him...never got upset or excited about anything! I loved hearing all his stories in the middle of the night when things were slow. I have many fond memories of those years but one in particular I will never forget. Death is part of life, and one night a child died, even though we did all we could possibly do to save this child. This hit me very hard and I almost left the nursing profession. For several years this horrible event was a burden I carried every day. Dr. Forsten was the only one who stood by me, encouraged me, and helped me regain faith in myself as a nurse. I am now a "seasoned nurse" and I am thankful for the opportunity to have met and learned from such a fine physician. My deepest sympathies to Ginger and the family.
Kathy Keller RN, Administrative Rep.
Memorial North Park##imported-begin##Kathy Keller RN##imported-end##

April 07, 2008 at 03:17 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to the Forsten family. He will be greatly missed by all who came into contact with him. Our prayers are with his family.*###imported-begin###Ilene Edmonds###imported-end##

April 07, 2008 at 01:43 PM



“ *Ginger and family.
We just wanted you to know how much it had ment to us to have known Earnie and family all these years.
We always enjoyed the conversations about the Lord, part of any doctor visits.
For those who missed his practice in Dayton, we enjoyed him in Hixson.
He was a precious individual.*###imported-begin###Vern and Helen Archer###imported-end##

April 07, 2008 at 01:08 PM



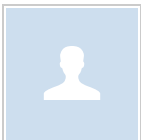
“ MY DOC

*Cowboy boots, a white lab coat and that sweet but handsome grin
He was ready to do the work that God had given him
Although he was a medical doctor he was concerned about the soul
I have never met anyone who was so meek yet so bold
His job wasn't just a job, but was a ministry as well
He loved God and loved people as we all can tell
He could cure the common cold or lend a listening ear
His purpose on this earth to everyone was clear
Dr. Forsten was one of the godliest men that I have ever known So
many seeds of God's love in his lifetime he has shown
Thank you Dr. Forsten for all that you have done
Good and faithful servant, your reward has just begun*

In Memory of Dr."DOC" Forsten

*Written by Ernie's angel LuLu Herrington##imported-
begin##Lindsey "Lulu" Herrington##imported-end##*

April 07, 2008 at 11:01 AM



“ Doc,

*You will be greatly missed by us both. You have been such a
wonderful influence in our lives. You never judged or had a bad
thing to say about anyone. We wish you eternal happiness with our
Lord God. May you rest in peace and always keep an eye out on us.
We will never forget you and all your dedication. You were so
blessed to have such a devoted Family, at home and at the office.
Thank you for always loving us. We will always keep you in our
hearts..##imported-begin##Ricky and Vickie Matthews##imported-
end##*

April 07, 2008 at 10:51 AM



“Ginger and family;

I have so many fond memories of Ernie that I don't know where to start. First of all he was the best physician that I ever met. In the many times I went to his office, the visit followed a pattern: a) We discussed our families and how they were doing, b) we talked about our LORD and SAVIOR Jesus Christ and what he was doing in our lives, and then 3) we discussed our health issues. He was so good that he could diagnose my problems and propose a solution within minutes and I had every confidence that he was correct. I could do little for him except pray that the LORD would handle them.

I remember very little of what went on when I had my emergency colon surgery and everyone thought I would die. I do remember him coming in to check on me every day and sometimes twice a day. This was a great comfort to know he was looking over my charts and performing the function of my guardian angel. He was asked by a nurse, why he never signed my charts so insurance could be billed for his service. His answer was "this is my friend".

On a lighter note, while scuba diving I watched him chase a barracuda around through the water. The barracuda had a hook in his mouth with about 3 feet of steel line and Ernie was trying to catch the line. A barracuda is not a friendly fish. He was my friend, my counselor and my physician. He was one of a kind and I feel privileged to have known him and be influenced by his Christian testimony and his love for Jesus Christ.

We love all of you.

Susie and Lacy##imported-begin##Lacy & Susie

Pauley##imported-end##

April 06, 2008 at 10:00 PM



“ *Ginger & Family Our thoughts and prayers are with you & your family. May God bless you all.##imported-begin##Bobby & Carolyn Burton##imported-end##*

April 06, 2008 at 08:47 PM



“ *I was a patient of Dr.Forsten for eight years and I hoped and prayed right up to the moment that I heard of his passing that he would recover and be able to return to being a doctor. He was my doctor, but he listened like a friend to my problems from time to time. I know there'll never be anyone who can fill his shoes. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##connie may##imported-end##*

April 06, 2008 at 08:34 PM



“ *I worked in Home Health Care at North Park and use to save a box for Dr. Forsten of Expired supplies so he could take them to the needy. What a wonderful man he was.
I was also a patient and loved his cowboy boots!
He will be missed, and is in Heaven!##imported-begin##Lisa Blair Leigh##imported-end##*

April 06, 2008 at 06:38 PM



“ *sorry to hear that Dr.Forsten has died and i send my condolences to your family.##imported-begin##Cindy (Mitchell) Garcia##imported-end##*

April 06, 2008 at 04:06 PM



“ I want to send my heartfelt prayers to Ginger and family. While I am sorry I cannot be there physically, I share in our loss for Ernie. In reading the beautiful sketch, I am touched but not surprised at the depth and breadth he lived his life and touched so many. It is so often we search for our life’s purpose and the reason God placed us on the planet at this particular time and place, and it is so evident by his life that Ernie served God with a passion that flowed through every aspect of his life. Growing up I spent a great deal of time with Ernie and Gerda, his mother and father and was always struck the the laughter and love they shared for friends and family. Later, at family gatherings at “Bud & Ginger’s” I would always get a chuckle when Ernie responded to a situation with that dry wit and a glint in his eye which would always cause Gerda to look up and either she or Ginger would say, “Ernie!” and we would all laugh. What a great sense of humor he had and a quiet strength of purpose that no matter what the challenge, God’s grace would see us all through. His legacy will live with us all in our hearts and minds.##imported-begin##Deb Forsten##imported-end##

April 06, 2008 at 12:23 PM



“Ginger & family,
You are in our thoughts & prayers, as you have been throughout the past several months. Dr. Forsten delivered Stacia February 1973. We have gone to his Hixson office for our primary care for many years. He always ministered to our spiritual as well as our physical needs. I always smile when I remember telling him Stacia & Wayne had started their family. He beamed with a smile and said, "that makes me a 'grand-doctor'. My babies are having babies!" He considered all the babies he delivered "his babies". He will be sorely missed. He has gone to a place where there is no more suffering, no more pain. A great physician has gone to meet the Greatest Physician of all. He truly is and was a "grand doctor". 1 Peter 5:17##imported-begin##Mary & Dustin Runyan, Stacia & Wayne Williamson##imported-end##

April 06, 2008 at 10:43 AM



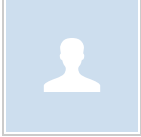
“I was very fond of you. You were always a wonderful and patient doctor. You will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##donna smith##imported-end##

April 06, 2008 at 10:05 AM



“Dr. Forsten, a true servant of God, a great doctor, and a great friend, we will meet again, we thank you for all your comforting words during our office visits over all the years, we are very saddened in this time of loss but we know it is heaven's gain, may God Bless each one.##imported-begin##David and Judy Hawkins##imported-end##

April 06, 2008 at 08:52 AM



“ *Dear Ginger and Family*
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. We will all miss
Doc very much, he was loved and respected.
In Christ,
Charles and Judy##imported-begin##Charles and Judy
Talafuse##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:11 PM



“ Dear Ginger Forsten and family,

Our family has many years of precious memories of Ernie and your family. In the first place, Ernie and I were both born within a year of each other in Philadelphia, Pa., of Germanic heritage.

Ernie began his practice in Dayton about the time Donna and I returned to Bryan to teach and begin our family. As a result Ernie was the doctor who brought our children Craig and Crista into the world, and he always spoke of them as "his kids." He did a good job, and we were thankful for his good medical help at their birth and as they grew through the childhood years. He took good care of our whole family. I always felt comfortable in discussing medical matters with Ernie, for he was knowledgeable and frank. We were sorry when he switched his practice to Chattanooga. But at least he continued to live on Blueberry Road close to us, and we passed the Forsten home on our way to Bryan and Grace Bible Church.

It was always a special blessing that Ernie as well as Ginger were strong Christian leaders and testimonies to the community.

Since Ernie became so seriously ill, we have been praying much for all of you and will continue to do so in the days of transition that lie ahead. May the Lord use your strong Christian witness to draw many patients, friends, and relatives to Himself.

In addition to the comfort of many Biblical promises, may the following words of William Jennings Bryan, which he wrote in Dayton in 1925 within a day of his own Homegoing in Dayton be a comfort to you: "Christ has made of death a narrow, starlit strip between the companionship of yesterday and the reunion of tomorrow." (THE LAST MESSAGE).

Dick Cornelius for Donna, Craig, and Crista##imported-begin##Dick and Donna Cornelius##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:10 PM



“ GINGER I FORGOT TO SAY THAT RIGHT AFTER HE HAD HAD SOME SURGERY THAT MY DADDY PASSED AWAY AND WE WERE GIVEN THE GIFT OF ERNIE PREACHING HIS FUNERAL. THAT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS THAT WE COULD HAVE RECEIVED!THIS IS JUST A SMALL THING THAT DR.FORSTEN GAVE TO OUR FAMILY AND THANK GOD AND ERNIE THAT WE WERE HONERED WITH HIS PRESENCE AND SERVICE. THIS IS ONE OF THE SWEETEST THINGS THAT ERNIE GAVE TO US AND WE WILL CHERRISH THAT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES! THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE SMALL THINGS THAT ERNIE GAVE TO US. HE CERTAINLY HAD THE LOVE AND THE GUIDANCE OF THE LORD!ONE OF THE SMALL AND KINDEST GIFTS TO SOMEONE THAT NEEDED IT AT THAT TIME.##imported-begin##Linda Gallagher Gentry##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:09 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. I wanted to share my experience with you as this precious dear man delivered my daughter in 1975.To this day I have never forgotten a thing. Sunday morn and my baby was almost here. After the birth of two sons I really was praying for a girl.Oh my the birth was fast and receiving the newborn in his hands he tells me it is a girl. Crying and laughing so hard, I looked straight at him and said are you sure. He laughed and said , Well I am pretty sure. I ask him to please check again and he smiled at me and laughed and said, Yes she is a fine baby girl and patted me on the shoulder. I just loved him. To this day on my daughters birthday I always think of him. God be with all of you at this time##imported-begin##Lynn##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:02 PM



“ To my dearest friend Ginger- I don't know where to begin. Ernie was a dear friend to both of my parents when they were growing up. He was their family physician and after the three of us came along he was our family physician and friend. The two of you are the **GREATEST FRIENDS AND THE TWO GREATEST CHRISTIANS I HAVE EVER KNOWN.** Ernie always used his belief in GOD to help him do his medical work and be in his life forever! He did not care to tell you about GOD know matter where he was or what he was doing. The both of you were there for our family in the passing of our parents. Just a phone call away no matter what time of the day or night it was. I remember that the last time I went to him there is a picture of the court house and the whittlers on the concrete benches with there old cars and some monkeys around them. That was a very special pitcher to him and one that I admired. The sound of his boots and the whistle or singing that you could hear before he ever got to your room. The dearest smile and laughter that he always gave. Sometimes he would even give a great big hug and say to me "Keep the Lord in your life and you can never go wrong". He will be certainly missed by his family and all of the people he touched by caring and showing the Love he had in GOD. I know that this is a very difficult time for you and your family but, the whole community and outside of the community he will be **GREATLY MISSED! I'M SURE QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL MISS HIM!! I LOVE BOTH OF YOU AND MAY GOD KEEP YOU IN HIS ARMS AT THIS TIME!**

LOVE YOU

LINDA GALLAGHER GENTRY &

JIMMY V. GENTRY###imported-begin##Linda Gallagher
Gentry###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 09:53 PM



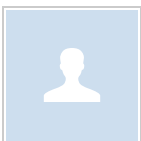
“ We are so sorry to hear about the going home of Ernie. He was dear to us, delivering both of our babies. I'll never forget how he came into the delivery room singing "The Longer I Serve Him" when I was in long labor with our son Jonathan. Tiffany's birth too was long...she being 10 lbs. I remember the prayers of both Ernie and Ginger. Years later when Tiffany was struggling with an eating disorder Ginger and Ernie were so kind to pray for and encourage Tiffany. There is a tree planted in the yard which blooms beautifully in honor of our daughter. I will always remember the love and friendship of this great man of God. Our prayers and friendship go out to this dear family in their time of great loss. May our gracious God meet every need you have in the days ahead. We love you, Larry and Gail Levenger##imported-begin##Larry and Gail Levenger##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 09:50 PM



“ Admired, respected, Christ driven, brave, strong, talented, fun, dedicated, a blessing to all he encountered -- His love of his family, community and work associates shines on. My prayers for you all.##imported-begin##Susan##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 09:21 PM



“ I am thankful for the opportunity to have know Doc as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Physican and Friend. His light and life have been an inspiration in my life and he will be greatly missed. Ms. Ginger, my prayers are with you and the rest of the family. I love you all.##imported-begin##Glenda McGee##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 07:31 PM



“ Dearest Ginger & family,
We are sorry for your loss, are prayers are with you during this time.
Christ's Love,
Bill & Brenda Thedford##imported-begin##Bill & Brenda
Thedford##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 06:08 PM



“ Ginger, Michelle, Stephen and Hayes:

Where do I begin to speak words that will comfort you in this time of loss? News of your tragedy came to me just moments ago. My heart aches with yours. Your Dad was one of the greatest people that God ever put on this earth and I am proud to have been able to have him and you guys be a part of my life. We know that we will see him again one day and he is in great company. My thoughts and prayers are with you all now and always. I will forever have a "special love" for your family.

*Love.....Malinda Jones##imported-begin##Malinda
Jones##imported-end##*

April 05, 2008 at 04:36 PM



“ Dear Forsten Family,

I am praying for the Lord's strength to be yours during this difficult time. I rejoice with you that Dr. Forsten is with the Lord he loved and served.

I have fond memories of your family.

Ruth Ross###imported-begin##Ruth Ross###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 02:54 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of loss. Ernie was a fellow classmate (1952) and a family physician for many years. He will be greatly missed!###imported-begin##Patty Phillips and family###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 01:19 PM



“ My prayers GO OUT TO THE FAMILY.i WILL TRULLY MISS Dr.Forsten, for he has been my doctor for 35 years, My last visit to his office before he got sick, i will remeber for he ask me if i went to chruch anywhere and i told him i have been a member of the Dayton Church of God for 40 years.He talked to me about his faith in God and we talked about how things has changed in the world today.He was not only my MD but he was a friend.I will miss him being my Doctor but i have let another doctor in his office take over being my MD,i am sure that is what he would want all off his patiences to do. My prayers go out to his family and all his co-workers at his office at North Park. Gerrell Swanner###imported-begin##Gerrell L Swanner###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 01:12 PM



“ Although I have never met Dr. Ernie, which is what I would have asked permission to call him if I had, Deb Forsten has shared lots of information on her family members and Cousin Ernie was no exception. What a celebration of life. As the family goes through this process of missing, longing and sadness, my prayers are with you all. However; I can't help but get a vision of Dr. Ernie standing in front of Jesus and Jesus say "Well done my good and faithful servant". Here's your mansion, now get busy!! And based on the information I have read here, busy he will get!! I'm sad with you all, but not for him. I know I will meet this gentleman some day in the near future, and I will take the time to get to know him then, and I will be extremely rewarded for having the opportunity to do so.

Terry L. Smith Sr.

Palm Beach Gardens Florida###imported-begin##Terry L. Smith Sr.###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 12:31 PM



“ We knew of Ernie through Allen's sister, Janice Forsten. Remarkable life with service to mankind. Our regards to his immediate family. Allen###imported-begin##Allen and Ann Irvine###imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 12:03 PM



“ I had the honor of getting to know Dr Forsten through him being a family dr and also being able to do my internship with him when i was going through a medical records course,he was an amazing man to talk to and work with the few weeks i was there especially when he found out he knew alot of my relatives.I never seen him in a bad mood he always had a smile on his face.i can recall many times passing him coming home in his little sports car..Dr.Forsten will surely be missed.##imported-begin##Becky##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:24 AM



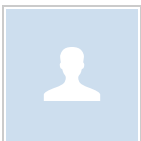
“ I have always had so much respect and admiration for Dr. Forsten. He treated both my father and stepmother, Charles and Mildred Gann, until their death in 1990-91. He even came to the funeral home when they passed to pay his respects. Dr. Forsten was a wonderful man and I shall never forget him. Joyce Gann Fox##imported-begin##Joyce Gann Fox##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 10:18 AM



“ Our prayers are with the family, May God Bless you.##imported-begin##Chuck and Cathy Levi##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 09:53 AM



“ I worked in the lab at North Park and remember Dr Forsten well and want to extend my condolences to his family. There is sorrow for those we miss, what we can do is live the rest of our lives that those who have gone before would approve.##imported-begin##Helen McKeown##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 09:18 AM



“ I did not have the pleasure of knowing Dr. Forsten but I know his son, Hayes. If the measure of a man can be seen in the quality of the children he helped raise then Dr. Forsten was quite a man.##imported-begin##Ken Marinelli##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 05:52 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of working with Dr. Forsten!! He was AMAZING to work with. He taught me so much! I came straight into his office from Chattanooga State in 1996 and was so lucky to have gotten to be one of his Nurse's! He taught me far more than any school ever dreamed. How to love, and take care of another human being. He had more Patience then anyone I've met in my life(and I'm not young:)), he never had anything bad to say about anyone. When I was his Nurse I sometimes would hear him talk to other's about God. One person in particular was my Mom, which because of him she got back into Church and I rest assured that she is with God now.

Dr. Forsten was My Teacher, My Friend, My 2nd Dad. I'm only at the office part time, but it's always been like home. I'll miss those boots coming down the hallway and getting so tickled at him LOVING his sports car. A lot of mornings I would pass him, he would be coming in to the parking lot and I leaving. I would tell him.....Didn't you see me in this big YELLOW BUS?? I waved at you. And he would say Ginger doesn't like me to wave at Blondes (then my hair was highlighted). I would just laugh.....) Ginger... You had a Wonderful Husband and the Children an Amazing Dad. This isn't the end.....you will see him again.

Your in Our Thoughts and Prayers!

Love,

Deborah##imported-begin##Deborah Lawson##imported-end##

April 05, 2008 at 12:11 AM



“ Our sincerest sympathies to the family.##imported-begin##Dr. Charles & Mary Lou Graves##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 11:43 PM



“ Our sincere sympathies and condolences to the family and friends.

Blessings,

Dr. Charles & Mary Lou Graves##imported-begin##Charles G Graves, MD##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 11:04 PM



“ During the time we shared with Ernie and the struggles he faced I will always see a man of courage.
May God Bless You All Frank & Kay##imported-begin##Frank & Kay Blair##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 10:37 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very sad time...Dr. Forsten was loved by all who knew him. One memory I have of him happened when I was 8 years old. I had gotten stung by a hornet and had a reaction to the sting. My parents took me to see Dr. Forsten because he was the only doctor who was opened on Saturday at the time. He made me laugh and to forget the pain I was in. I will always remember him for that...Also, when I became a nurse and he was still at Rhea Medical I called him very early one morning about one of his patients. He must have been really sound asleep because when I asked him if there were any orders he said "Give them an extra bale of hay and call me in the morning!" He then politely hung up the phone. I was laughing so hard I couldn't call him back for a few minutes! He really was an extra special man and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. God Bless You...##imported-begin##Vickie Turner Crowe##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 09:11 PM



“ Dr. Fortsen was a kind and caring doctor who will be missed. Our prayers for the family are that God will comfort, strengthen, and sustain you during your hours of bereavement. Charles and Greather Tinker (Patients)##imported-begin##Charles and Greather Tinker##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 09:01 PM



“ Jesus called and Dr. Forsten answered .. When We would see him at his Hixson office, I loved to talk with him. He could tell the most beautiful stories about Jesus . This man had a HUGE Christian heart and I cried the day he first told me of his cancer on the first time it came. Then God granted him a little more extra time on earth. We just loved him so very, very much . He was one of the nicest men I have ever met in 50 years . I pray for you his family , and I know it's hard as I just lost my last living family member . But I hope you will rejoice because you know this dear man is certainly in Heaven with our Lord !!
God bless and keep you all
Linda###imported-begin##Elbert & Linda Bilbrey###imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 05:04 PM



“ My prayers are with you and your family###imported-begin##Marlene Cain###imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 04:08 PM



“ What a wonderful man and physician he was our family doctor for years. He will truly be missed. When he was my fathers physician he told a story of a young father who could not afford his wifes maternity care so Dr Forsten took his payment in fire wood. He would come out to our care in his parking lot in his street clothes to check out my handicapped sister who was terrified of people in lab coats. He was one of a kind. My deepest sympathies to his family.###imported-begin##Ilene Edmonds###imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 02:15 PM



“ He was a kind man. Many years ago when I was raising my kids as a single parent, my meager income would only go so far. I struggled to pay for his medical services and set up a payment plan with his Dayton office of some ridiculously small amount, something like \$5 or \$10 a month attempting to pay a balance of just a few hundred dollars, but to me it may as well have been a million. One day out of the blue I received a statement in the mail with a note written by Ernie telling me to consider the bill paid in full. He didn't do it for the accolades, just did it because the Lord touched his heart to do so. His random act of kindness touched me deeply and has inspired me to "pay it forward" to others whenever I've had the opportunity. Many years later when I visited his Hixson practice I told him how much this had meant to me and he didn't even recall doing it. That's the kind of man he was. He was my physician and my dear friend. My sincerest condolences go out to his family, for I know he will be greatly missed by them.##imported-begin##Donna Whitfield##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 01:28 PM



“ Dr. Forsten was one of the kindest people I ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was a kind and compassionate Doctor who wanted to treat his patients as people not numbers. He will be missed. The world was a better place due to his hard work and wonderful love of people. He was our family doctor and we will miss him.##imported-begin##Susan L. Campbell##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 01:27 PM



“ Dr. Forsten will be truly missed by a community who loved him and respected him and his kindness to mankind. He was truly a blessing to the many people to whom he administered medicine and advice. May your family know thoughts and prayers are going out for you all in this difficult time. May God bless you all.

Sarah Norris (former patient)##imported-begin##Sarah Norris##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 12:50 PM



“ I just learned of Dr. Forsten's passing and wanted to express my sympathy to the entire family. I have known he and Ginger for a number of years and know what a fine, gentle and caring person he was.##imported-begin##Patricia S Powel##imported-end##

April 04, 2008 at 12:50 PM