



Dr. James Stephen Purdon

March 3, 2013

Dr. James Stephen “Steve” Purdon, 62, died Sunday, March 3, 2013, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, MS.

Born in Pontotoc, MS, Dr. Purdon had lived primarily in the Oxford area. He was a well-known and respected cardiologist who counted hundreds as his patients. To his family and those who knew him, he was larger than life and always made them feel safe and protected. Dr. Purdon was a true Southern gentleman as evidenced by his manners. He admired Thomas Jefferson and was a voracious reader of history. A gourmet cook, Dr. Purdon enjoyed overfeeding everyone, including the pets. He was possessed of a dry wit and a sly smile. When not dressed in scrubs, he will be remembered for always wearing a hat. Dr. Purdon enjoyed football and attending games at the University of Mississippi. He loved his family and they considered him their best friend.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the Coleman Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Fred Eakes officiating. Coleman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara L. Purdon, of Oxford, MS; three daughters, Elizabeth Purdon Williams, Carolyn Anne Purdon and Elinor “Ellie” Clare

Purdon, all of Oxford, MS; one son, John Steven Purdon, of Oxford, MS; his mother, Leuvenia Purdon, of Pontotoc, MS; one sister, Lisa Purdon-Ball, of Pontotoc, MS.

His father, James Wilburn Purdon, preceded Dr. Purdon in death.

Memorials may be made the American Heart Association, 4830 McWillie Circle, Jackson, MS 39206; the Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society, P.O. Box 1674, Oxford, MS 38655; Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675; or the Interfaith Compassionate Ministry, 904 North Lamar Blvd, Oxford, MS 38655.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ My first ER to supervise as a new RN, was at OLCH in Oxford. Being a male RN with experience in the church and law-enforcement before hand, I wasn't new to the world as other nurses were. As a matter of fact, I was about 6 years or so older than Steve. So we got along very well and became close friends. I learned a lot from him in the medical field, however, and have always remembered his teachings. When seeing a patient in the ER, it was always Dr.Purdon and Mr.Grisham. But back in the nurse's station or cafeteria it was always Steve and Dan. Many nights, Steve would hand the EMT's and have them go to Baskin Robbins and bring back a few gallons of ice cream for all personnel working that night. Some nights we'd have watermellon which he and I took turns bringing and storing in the morgue draws to keep them cold. (That is unless someone had them occupied already.) I don't think that there was anyone more loved in that hospital than Dr Steve Purdon. His teachings gave me the ability and knowledge that I continued to use the rest of my nursing career. I can still see him come into the ER late at night to take over, and be dressed in a clean shirt and tie and dress pants. The first things he'd sat after "good evening" was what do you have for me, Dan? I'd pick up the charts and give him the run down and what I'd already ordered in the way of lab and Xray. He's say "Good! Let's go see them!" This world lost a super doctor and a wonderful friend, way, too early. God Bless his family. Prayers. Dan Grisham/Retired Trauma Nurse.

Dan Grisham - June 29, 2022 at 03:51 PM

LW

“ I just saw a patient today who moved to Gadsden Alabama from Oxford and knew Steve. Today was the first time I learned of his death. I trained with Steve in the cardiology program at UT Memphis and wanted to extend my condolences. I remember once he told me he was taking his daughter to dinner that night and that she always ordered shrimp remoulade. I found that amusing because as I recall at the time she was quite young and unusual in her food preference. He had a quiet sense of humor that helped make the work day a little easier when we were in training. Again, I am sorry for your loss.

Lewis Walker - March 23, 2015 at 09:13 PM