

David Tennyson Dodd, M.D., died suddenly December 18, 2010 at Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, TN.

Dr. Dodd was born November 18, 1927, in Smyrna, TN and grew up on a farm on Rock Springs Road. He was preceded in death by father John William Dodd, mother Nora Ellen Pruitt Dodd, and brother William Thurman Dodd.

Dr. Dodd was a lifelong resident of Rutherford County and graduated from Central High School in 1946. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1950. From 1950 to 1953, he attended the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis where he obtained his Doctor of Medicine. He interned as General Surgeon at the Institute of Nashville General and Vanderbilt University until 1955. He then entered the military and served in the Strategic Air Command for two years. He was a Flight Surgeon at Savannah's Hunter Air Force Base and did a tour of duty in French Morocco after which he returned to the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis to complete his Surgical Residency.

In 1961, Dr. Dodd started his 20 year long surgery practice at Rutherford Hospital, now known as Middle Tennessee Medical Center, where he served the people of Rutherford County and the surrounding communities faithfully. He performed his last surgery in early 1985. In November of 1983, he became a Medical Director of the Tennessee Medical Association Impaired Physicians Program. The TMA program, through Dr. Dodd, helped rehabilitate thousands of physicians suffering from the disease of chemical dependency or mental and emotional illness, or both.

Dr. Dodd developed a model continuing care program by calling on the presence and assistance of PHP graduates and other physician volunteers across Tennessee. From January 1997 to July 1998, he served as the Consulting Medical Director for the PHP. From July 1998 to February 2001, he attained Emeritus Medical Director status. In March 2001, Dr. Dodd was called back into active duty as Medical Director to aid the PHP once again. He served in that position until December 2001 and officially retired on January 1, 2002.

Dr. Dodd was instrumental in the formation of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs, a national organization dedicated to physician health. He was an Associate Professor in Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University Medical School and helped to develop the Center for Professional Health. Dr. Dodd was one of the first physicians credentialed in Addiction Medicine. Among many honors was the William C. Menninger Medal for Achievement in Mental Health awarded by the American College of Physicians in 1998.

Favorite pastimes were reading and spending time in his wood-working and metal shops. He was an inventor of not only ideas but of beautiful and functional pieces made from wood and metal. He dearly loved spending quiet time with his dog, Missy, where they would often share a Hardee's biscuit. His passion, though, was people and he spent his life healing the physical and emotional hurts of others. He was a committed husband, father, physician, and friend.

Dr. Dodd is survived by his wife, Nancy Sugg Dodd, brother Paul Sanders Dodd, Sr. (wife Betty Lytle Kelton) of Lascassas, TN, four children, Leslee Dodd Karl, Ph. D., David T. (Chip) Dodd, Ph. D. (wife, Sonya Gannon), John H. Dodd (wife, Harriett Fair), Phillip S. Dodd (wife, Melissa Meagher) and eight grandchildren; Tennyson, William, Jake, Laura Grace, Caroline, Phillip, Griffin and Thomas.

Memorials may be made to the Rutherford/Cannon County Drug Court Support Foundation Board, c/o Ruth Hafner, 9715 Patterson Rd., Rockvale, TN, 37153, (615) 896-4515; the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Foundation, 1700 Medical Center Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, (615) 396-4809 or the Tennessee Medical Foundation Endowment, 216 Centerview Dr, Suite 304, Brentwood, TN 37027, (615) 467-6411.