

In Loving Memory Of

Dr. Graham Howard Chesnut

Born

May 28, 1926
Saginaw, Michigan

Died

June 6, 2018
Fort Meade, South Dakota

Funeral Services

Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.
First United Methodist Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Jenene Earl

Eulogy

Lowell Holmgren

Musician

Mike Felner

Musical Selections

“What A Wonderful World” “Because He Lives”
“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Pallbearers

John Pearson ~ Claire Armstrong ~ Gene Secrest ~ Bob Tesch
Gene Kinney ~ Don Mattheson ~ Ron Baumberger

Masonic Rites

Olive Branch Lodge # 47 A.F & A.M.

Military Honors

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery at 12:30 p.m.
Sturgis, South Dakota

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the service in the church hall. We thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of

Dr. Graham Howard Chesnut

1926 ~ 2018



Irish Blessing

***May the road rise up to meet you
the wind be always at your back
may the sun shine warm upon your face
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again may
God hold you in the palm of His hand.***

Dr. Graham Howard Chesnut was born on May 28, 1926, in Saginaw Michigan. He spent his youth enjoying the beautiful outdoors and lake country with his parents Howard and Bernice (Graham) Chesnut and sisters, Joanne and Marilyn. After graduating from Marysville, Michigan High school, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII in the South Pacific. When the war ended, he was assigned to Peking, China, where he helped repatriate Japanese. Following the war, he attended the University of Michigan and Ohio Northern University, graduating as a pharmacist.

His interest in medicine continued and he attended the Kirksville, Missouri School of Osteopathy, graduating with a Doctorate of Osteopathic medicine degree. He had a private medical practice in Auburn, Michigan, but his interest in the care of our nation's veterans lead Dr. Chesnut to work for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Chillicothe, Ohio. He later did his Residency in Psychiatry at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. After becoming a board certified psychiatrist, he and his family moved to Ft. Meade, SD, where he served as a staff Psychiatrist at Fort Meade Veterans Administration Medical Center from 1974 until his retirement.

He married Joyce Churchill in 1948, and they were blessed with three children, a son, David, and twin daughters, Cinda and Linda. He married Alma Sansom Hutchins in 1971, in Topeka, KS, which added four more children to the family- Susan, Alan, Nancy and Jill.

His interest in flying began in his youth. He loved nothing better than sharing a good cup of airport coffee with his fellow pilots. He was active in the Civil Air Patrol. He was a life-long member of the Shriners, and served as president of the Naja Air Patrol and Naja Flying Aces. He and Alma loved their time with the Rapid City Shrine Club and were always at events. Graham especially loved riding his mini-scooter in formation with his fellow Shriners in the annual parades! He was active for over 60 years with Masonic Organizations, holding many offices and positions of leadership. Graham and Alma were life-long members of the Sturgis Methodist Church and he especially enjoyed the early morning Men's Group breakfast, which he rarely missed. In addition, the Elk's Camping Group and National Camping Travelers (the Masonic camping group) brought them much joy, friendship, and wonderful memories of nearly 50 years of camping and doing community service in the Black Hills.

Another one of his many interests was working on electronics. He built his first radio as a teenager and belonged to the HAM radio group for over 70 years. Graham Howard Chesnut was an independent and self-contained man, who never met a gadget he didn't want to fix or build. To quote Graham: "You want to do something? Buy a book, read it, and accomplish the project."

Graham and Alma have spent many years researching Genealogy and this resulted in involvement in the Scot-Irish of the Black Hills organization. He and his wife traveled to Scotland and became official members of the Graham Clan. They were guests of the Duke of Montrose, a member of the Graham clan.

One of Graham's greatest honors was serving in the South Dakota National Guard. Rising to the rank of Colonel, he served 20 years as a flight surgeon.

The family, especially his wife, Alma, wish to express gratitude to the Hospice of the Northern Hills, Heartland Home Health, and to the staff of the V.A. Hospice Unit at Ft. Meade Veterans Administration Medical Center for their compassionate care of Graham in his last months.

Dr. Graham Howard Chesnut passed away after a long struggle with cancer on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at age 91 years.

Survivors happy to share his life's journey are his wife, Alma Chesnut; sons, Dr. David Chesnut (Ruth), Willmington, OH, Alan Hutchins (Allison) Denver, CO; daughters, Cinda Kesler, Orient, OH, Linda Blackwell, Ashville, OH, Susan Maloney (Pete) Castro Valley, CA, Dr. Nancy Babbitt (Steve) Rapid City, SD; sister, Marilyn Litzenberger; and many grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Graham was preceded in death by: his parents; his daughter, Jill Ann Chesnut Reddy; his sister, Joanne Rozek; brothers in laws, Carroll Meade, Louis Rozek and David Litzenberger; son in law, Tom Kesler; and daughter in law, Susan Johnson Hutchins.

Alma and family invite friends to join them one hour before the service for conversation in the library of the Sturgis United Methodist Church- 1755 Ballpark Rd, Sturgis, SD.

Interment will follow Black Hills National Cemetery at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: Hospice of the Northern Hills, 1440 N. Main St, Spearfish, SD 57783, First United Methodist Church Building Preservation Fund, 1755 Ballpark Rd., Sturgis 57785 or Naja Temple Travel Fund (funds used for children to travel to Shriner's Hospital appointments) 4091 Sturgis Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

High Flight

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while the silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
- Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee Jr.