



Dr. Henry Covington McGrede

February 16, 1922 - April 9, 2015

Henry Covington McGrede

Henry Covington McGrede, age 93, passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2015, following a brief illness. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2015, in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, with Dr. Roy James officiating under the direction of Rader Funeral Home.

Henry was born February 16, 1922, in Longview, Texas, to the late Novie Bell and Henry Covington McGrede. He moved to Sulphur Springs, Texas, in 1925, when his father purchased half interest in the Sulphur Springs Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Several years later, the McGrede family entered into a partnership with the Charles Ashcroft family forming a relationship that lasted decades. Henry had many fond memories of growing up in Sulphur Springs, including working at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, milking cows and tending chickens. While in high school he learned to play the trombone, and when asked why this particular instrument, he replied, "It was the only one that was free." Following graduation from high school there, Henry completed his pre-medical studies at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, where he lettered playing the trombone in the marching band. He continued to wear his letter sweater until his last days. Henry's mind was both inquisitive and scientific. He always wanted to understand exactly how everything worked. If he had not become a physician, being an engineer was next on his list. His greatest fascination was the miracle of the human body. He attended his first year of medical school at Baylor School of Medicine in Houston. Prior to his second year of medical school, his class was given the choice of remaining at Baylor or transferring to Southwestern Medical School in Dallas to become a member of the new school's first graduating class, which he did. Upon completion of medical school, he joined the United States Army in the medical core and was stationed with the rank of Captain assigned to the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone. When asked about his military service, Henry would state, "I don't feel like I served my country. My country served me." Following the service, Henry interned at Kansas City General Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, and later completed his three year residency there in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In 1949, Henry married the love of his life, Wanda Campbell. He often marveled at the divine intervention that placed the two of them in the same place at the same time on the fateful evening their paths crossed one Christmas in Sulphur Springs. They moved to Longview in 1952, where Henry began his practice. His office was located directly across from the hospital on what is now part of the Good Shepherd Medical Center's front parking lot. His "jog" across Fifth Street into the hospital and up the stairs to the second floor Labor and Delivery frequently and intermittently during the day was familiar to hospital personnel and indicative of his medical specialty. He was affectionately referred to as "The Father of Longview" delivering approximately 7,000 babies during his career-most being born at GSMC. He loved his work and said many times he always felt honored each time he was chosen to be a part of such a special time in families' lives. He simply could not believe his good fortune being able to make a living doing what he loved to do, and declared he would have done it for free had he not needed to support a family.

Dr. McGrede was a former member of the American Board of OB-GYN and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of OB-GYN. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Gregg County Medical Society, and a former Chief Of Staff of GSMC.

Henry retired thirty years ago, and in his retirement he enjoyed boating and fishing on Lake Cherokee and traveling wherever Wanda wanted to go-often in a motorhome. He was a very proud and engaged "DeDaddy" to his two granddaughters, attending every school function, dance recital, graduation, and life event. Ashley Ashcroft Kingham and Alexandra Ashcroft Crawley survive him. Henry also thoroughly enjoyed his close friend group respectfully referred to as "RODEO", retired old doctors eating out. He was both delighted and very surprised when out about town and people recognized, remembered, and thanked him for the care he had given to them or to someone in their family.

Henry was an honorable, humble man who always saw the best in people and in every situation. He had a strong spirit, coupled with a kind heart and gentle soul. His dry wit, quick sense of humor, and amazing memory made his many fond memories and life stories entertaining. He was profoundly grateful for the legacy his parents left him and for the life he was given.

Henry is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Wanda; his daughter, Kaye Lynn McGrede; and his brothers, Gilbert McGrede and Louis McGrede. In addition to his granddaughters, Henry is survived by his daughter, Anne McGrede Ashcroft; son-in-law, Benjamin Franklin Ashcroft; and, grandsons-in-law, James Anthony Kingham and William Eiland Crawley. Also surviving is his sister, Jane, nieces and nephews, and many dear

friends.

The family is very thankful for the compassionate, respectful, and quality care provided by Dr. Jeffrey McWilliams, Dr. Gurjit Singh, Dr. Rodney Slone, Dr. Robert Sansom, the nurses, and support staff of GSMC. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to First United Methodist Church and Heart'sWay Hospice, who provided care in his last days.

In lieu of customary remembrances, contributions in Henry's memory may be made to The Wanda Campbell McGrede Fund at First United Methodist Church benefiting Christian education and music ministries, or to GSMC Foundation.

As Dr. Bob Parrott so eloquently expressed, "Like the many lives he has seen born into this world, we have witnessed the birth of a new life into his eternal home. He now lives in the heaven he brought to those around him here on earth."

Events

APR **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

14

First United Methodist Church
400 N. Fredonia St., Longview, TX, US

Comments



“ Dear Anne,
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. What a wonderful life he had! I will always remember with fond memories being in your parents' home and playing with Kaye. They provided for such a warm, loving place for us to be. I can't believe he delivered over 7,000 babies! How remarkable and what a blessing to so many families!
I am happy to read about his engagement with your daughters and the life they gave him after retirement.
God bless you and your family,
Sincerely,
June Bivins Baumoel
Dripping Springs, Texas

June Baumoel - April 21, 2015 at 04:46 PM



“ Dr mcgrede was a very special man he saved me and my mom due to I was only 3 lbs and my mom was fading he saved us both god bless

Tammy Bush - April 19, 2015 at 11:13 PM



“ Dear Anne,

Our hearts go out to you and yours with understanding sympathy! Your daddy was such a fine gentleman in every sense of the word--I loved him dearly and so happy for him that he is now with his beloved Wanda. He delivered all 3 of my babies and I will never forget knowing that he and Wanda were leaving for a ski trip on Christmas Day when Burke was born. I told him to go ahead and let another doctor deliver the baby but he said Oh no I will deliver him before I have to leave at 11am. Sure enough Burke came at 10:30. How thankful I was!!! We will continue to lift you in prayer during this difficult time. You have been the MOST faithful, caring daughter ever and everyone admires you so much for your devotion to your parents! Sorry to be in Calif and not able to attend the service but we send our love and prayers, Sister and Bill Payne

Clara Payne - April 15, 2015 at 11:59 AM



“ Anne and Family,

So sorry for the loss of your sweet Father. What wonderful memories I have of McCann Road and the McGrede Family. I will be praying for your family.

Barbara Whitehurst Jackson

Barbara Jackson - April 14, 2015 at 09:26 AM



“ My heart was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. McGrede. I went to work for him right out of nursing school and stayed until he retired. He was amazing. I never saw him in a bad mood. I cannot tell you how many funny stories and wonderful memories I have of your Dad. He loved his family so very much. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jerri Purifoy - April 13, 2015 at 12:06 PM



“ Dr. McGrede helped me start my family many years ago. He was a truly caring physician and really the end of an era.
Betsy Allan

Betsy Allan - April 13, 2015 at 08:45 AM



“ Dr McGrede was one of the first people I met 40 years ago when we moved to Longview. He is dear to my heart for the kindness he showed to me, his joy at my great loss of weight. I respect his memory and thank God for his care, His advice and candor changed my life. Now I am 79 years old and, Dr McGrede remains as a dear friend and awesome physician in my heart..



Connie Douty - April 12, 2015 at 07:46 PM



“ Dr. McGrede will surely be missed. He was the greatest doctor ever. Patient and with love! He delivered my first son and he was amazing. Rest in peace, doctor.

Linda Morrow - April 12, 2015 at 02:07 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the McGrede family upon the loss of Henry. He was a dear friend for a number of years and also served our family as a doctor for several years.
He was always pleasant and positive, along with Wanda. Both will be missed.
J. R. & Mary Murray

J. R. & Mary Murray - April 12, 2015 at 01:53 PM



“ What a sweet man! Henry and Wanda were special friends to us. Loved them both dearly. Henry was always glad to see us and visit. Loved seeing him in church. Will miss him. he was so very proud of his family and all they did.
Brenda and Michael Liverman

brenda liverman - April 12, 2015 at 01:48 PM



“ Ann Ashcroft & family,
I just met you a couple of weeks ago where I work. I told you the story of your husband being related to my son. I don't know if you remember. I have met your Dad a few times. I just wanted to tell you I am sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. He seemed like a really sweet man. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Thoughts

Gina Williamson

(daughter in law of Ann Ashcroft Williamson)

Gina Williamson - April 13, 2015 at 07:31 AM



“ So many wonderful memories of Dr. McGrade and Wanda. We saw them frequently at the old Reservation Club. Often I stopped to chat with Dr. McGrade when I saw him on his daily walk -- some days we solved all the problems of the world on the side of the road. He was always such a friendly, and enjoyable person to visit with about any subject . May you find comfort in all the wonderful memories you have of your Dad....a great Man that will be missed by all who knew him.

Nell Raper Boren - April 13, 2015 at 05:12 PM



“ Ann; Your dad was always a gentleman, he will be missed by my dad and I.

Robert Dragisic - April 13, 2015 at 06:48 PM



“ Dear Anne and family,
I was so saddened to hear of Dr. McGrede's death. My prayer is that all of the wonderful memories you have of your daddy and your mother will bring joy to your heart and bring your beautiful smile to your face. May God's grace be with you and your family.

Carole and Steve Judy

Carole Judy - April 13, 2015 at 11:54 PM