



Donald Silver, M.D.

10/19/29 – 1/27/2021

Dr. Silver was born October 19, 1929 to Herman and Cecilia Silver in New York, N.Y. When he was four years old, the family moved to Ware Shoals, S.C. This was the time of the Great Depression and World War II. He remembered as a child seeing German U-boats burning ships off the coast of South Carolina, and, as a safety precaution, his family having to keep all the lights in their house turned off.

His family later moved to Spartanburg, S. C. where he graduated from high school in 1946.

Dr. Silver received a Bachelor of Arts degree and membership in Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University in 1950, and received his M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1955. As a medical student, he was awarded membership in Alpha Omega Alpha in his third year. In his fourth year he received the Borden Award, the Merck Award, and the Saunders Award.

He completed his internship in Pediatrics at Duke Hospital in 1956, and, as part of the Berry plan, he served the next two years in the service. The Berry Plan allowed physicians to defer military service until they completed medical school and residency training. His commitment was met by serving two years at Davis Monthan Air Force base in Tucson, A.Z. The base was on high alert because of the Cold War. As a result, he was trained to work at a MASH hospital if needed. It was in Tucson that he met his wife of 62 years Helen Harnden.

Dr. Silver returned to Duke at the end of his service commitment and entered Duke's surgical program as an Assistant Resident in General and Thoracic Surgery from 1958-1963.

He joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in 1964. In 1966, he became Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Surgical Vascular Clinic. From 1964 to 1975 he was co-Director with Dr. William G. Anlyan of the Thromboembolic Unit at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Silver was known throughout his career for his research and studies of Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT.)

In 1975 he was named the W. Alton Jones Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia, Missouri, and Surgeon in Chief of University Hospital and Clinics. Upon his retirement in 1998, Dr. Silver was given the distinction of being named the W. Alton Jones Distinguished Professor and Chairman Emeritus.

Dr. Silver throughout his career valued the time he spent teaching medical students and residents. During his time at Duke, he was given a Golden Apple Award by medical students to the Best Clinical

Teacher in 1971, and at University of Missouri, he was also given the Golden Apple Award in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1995.

The Donald Silver Rare Book Room in the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library at the University of Missouri was given to the library by the Department of Surgery and was dedicated to Dr. Silver. An item is given Rare Book Room status and retained in the library if the item affords a needed perspective on early developments in the field of medicine. The room also displays a small collection of antique surgical instruments.

Dr. Silver is survived by his wife of 62 years Helen Harnden, and four children: Elizabeth and her husband Jim Smith of Norfolk, VA, and grandchildren Tyler and Sarah; Don and his wife Jenny of Taipei, Taiwan; Stephanie and her husband Dave Rich of St. Louis, MO, and grandchildren Parker and Cameron; and William and his wife Kim on Chapel Hill, NC, and grandchildren Jake, Luke and Kate.

A service for the family will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation.