



Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell

August 28, 1933 - December 27, 2020

Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell of Fort Payne died peacefully of natural causes on Sunday, December 27 at his residence, Harborchase of Huntsville. He had celebrated a wonderful Christmas day with activities, including leading a carol sing-along.

Charles was born in Fort Payne, Alabama on August 28, 1933 to Eleanor Gilbreath Isbell and John B. Isbell, Jr. He was married to Barbara Hulgán Isbell for 63 years until her death in 2018. He is survived by their children, Karen (David) Ivey, Laura Patterson, and Chuck Isbell; grandchildren, Allison (David) Whitener and great-granddaughter Grace; Richard (Kelsey) Ivey and great-grandchildren Everett and Meredith; Stuart (Courtney) Ivey and great-grandchildren Vivian and Duncan; Trey Patterson; Tripp Isbell; Annalee Isbell; sister, Sara (John) Quinn; and a host of extended family and friends. Charles lived most of his life in his beloved Fort Payne, which he called “heaven on earth.”

He graduated from DeKalb County High school (1951), Alabama Polytechnic Institute School of Pharmacy (1955), and the Medical College of Alabama (1962). Following his graduation from Auburn, he served as a pharmacy officer at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio and at Valley Forge Army Hospital. While stationed in Pennsylvania, with encouragement from his brother John B, he decided on a career in medicine. He always said it was one of his best decisions.

After Charles finished his residency in Pediatrics at Lloyd Noland Hospital in

Birmingham, he returned to Fort Payne with his family to practice with John B at Isbell Clinic. He held both medical and pharmaceutical licenses active for over 50 years. As a pediatrician, he delivered more than 3,000 babies while covering the obstetric service for John B on his days off. He lovingly took care of the children and families of DeKalb County with skill, compassion, humor, and an impeccable work ethic, having never missed a day of work in more than 30 years of practice. He was devoted to his patients, co-workers, and the community.

Charles was born at home in the center of town where the First Baptist Church educational building now stands. He often told of hearing sermons through the open window as a baby. He was a lifelong and faithful member who was steadfast in his support of First Baptist, a devoted Sunday school teacher, and active deacon. He and Barbara were members of the Golden Circle.

Known to most as Dr. Charles, to his children and grandchildren he was Dad and Granddad, and he was larger than life to them. He loved and cared for them fiercely, supported and encouraged their endeavors, and always knew what to do and how to do it. His sense of humor and quick wit is legendary. Gifted with an infectious smile and keen appreciation for a good joke, he kept everyone laughing and entertained and was a popular emcee at community events. In addition to spending time with Barbara and his family, Charles enjoyed daily workouts at Sports First Fitness, line dancing, a competitive game of ping pong, everything about cars, farming, playing his harmonica, and being silly with kids. He was a teacher and mentor who gave so much back to his community and was loved by all who knew him.

In recent years, Charles continued his legacy of caregiving and helping others at his Harborchase community. He assisted with activities, entertained residents and guests, and led exercise class and worship services. Special thanks to his caregivers and the staff of Harborchase for their love and care of Charles and Barbara.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there will be a private graveside service for

immediate family. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Dr. Charles will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church Fort Payne, Landmarks of DeKalb County, or the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Dr. Charles had our youth group to his house after being the top bidder at our youth group auction. The auction was held to finance our youth retreat to Emerald Isle South Carolina. My job that day was to wash and wax his classic Mustang which I did with great care. What a wonderful man! Such priceless memories!*

Michael Blevins - May 10, 2021 at 12:13 AM



“ *Lee Biddle lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell*



Lee Biddle - January 02, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ *Lee Biddle lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell*



Lee Biddle - January 01, 2021 at 07:42 PM

MA

“ *Martha lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell*



Martha - December 31, 2020 at 05:07 PM

HC

“ *Of course like most people in Fort Payne, he was my beloved pediatrician. But what I remember most about him was his curiosity to learn new things. I will never forget being in high school Spanish class (1996 or 1997), and looking up and seeing Dr. Charles and Mrs. Isbell in the back of my classroom as students. What a fun class that was! What an amazing, kind, and witty man!*

Holly Coulter - December 31, 2020 at 10:23 AM

UC

“ *Uta Cortimilia lit a candle in memory of Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell*



Uta Cortimilia - December 31, 2020 at 05:23 AM

SM

“ *I will always remember Dr. Charles for his happy attitude, smiling, and his devotion to Barbara.*

Susan Miradakis

Susan Miradakis - December 30, 2020 at 10:51 PM

DL

“ My sister and I would babysit for the three of you (she more than I) when you lived on Forest Avenue and we lived on Alabama. I then attended church with them for many years and they were always kind and loving. They will be missed by their community!

Dale Clark Lang - December 30, 2020 at 10:28 PM

MT

“ Dr . Charles was a, one of a kind, man and Dr. Always with a smile and kind words. He will be greatly missed by this town!

margaret and Ed thacker - December 30, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ Dr. Charles was such a wonderful man and o.b. He took care of all 5 of my daughters after they were born, He got my youngest thru a terrible time when she had ashmatic bronchitis, he delivered one of them. Even after being out of the hospital and out in a store or anywhere, he made a point to say hello and ask how the girls were doing, He loved his job and the children loved him. God bless you and i am so sorry for your lose, i will keep you and your family in prayer.

Diana Brisendine - December 30, 2020 at 11:17 AM

SS

“ Charles was one of the nicest fellows ever. My husband and I knew him and Barbara through meeting them at Sports First. We had many fun discussions with both of them there and when we would meet perchance at a social event. He always had time to chat, and I remember having a discussion about a fairly new medicine that my husband had just been prescribed. He is missed here in the valley and remembered fondly.

Sue Schwarz - December 30, 2020 at 09:56 AM

BH

“ Karen I only meet your dad once when I evaluated him. He was so nice and such fun to talk with. He tried his best to trick me into believing everything he said. I never knew him as a practicing doctor but I have friends who were patients and they loved him
Betty Harris

betty harris - December 30, 2020 at 06:34 AM

AG

“ Aleshia González lit a candle in memory of
Dr. Charles Alexander Isbell



Aleshia González - December 29, 2020 at 09:51 PM

RC

“ Dr. Charles and Barbara were always beacons of light to everyone they encountered. Their presence will be missed by all of us who were privileged to know them and their legacy will live long in Fort Payne, DeKalb County and the world. While the earth may seem a bit darker, the heavens have gained a brighter light.

Randy Cochran - December 29, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DC

“ Dr. Charles was one of the very best men I have ever come in contact with in my lifetime. A wonderful husband, father, grandfather, Doctor, community leader and so much more! He and Barbara were the most beautiful couple ever!
David Colvard

david colvard - December 29, 2020 at 05:21 PM

CL

“ Cheryl Little lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Charles Alexander Isbell



Cheryl Little - December 29, 2020 at 03:55 PM