



Douglass F. Adams MD

August 5, 1935 - March 13, 2026

Doug Adams was born in Maine in 1935 and moved to Florida with his family in 1945. He was married in 1954 to his wife Eleanor and celebrated 71 anniversaries together. He was primarily a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him. In addition he was a physician, educator, scientist, ethicist and eternal optimist!

His undergraduate studies were completed at Stetson University and Wake Forest College. He received his medical degree at Wake Forest School of Medicine, then known as Bowman Gray. He interned at Philadelphia General Hospital. After serving in the Air Force for two years, he did a radiology residency and fellowship at Stanford Medical School, and an additional year as a faculty member. He then became a faculty member at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

During a sabbatical year, 1973-74, he became a Sloan Fellow at the Sloan Business School at MIT, where he obtained a Master's degree in business. From 1979 to 81 he was Professor and Chairman of Radiology at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. He then returned to teaching and research at Harvard Medical School, primarily at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. His career spanned many specialties. He worked in the early days of Vascular and

Cardiac Angiography, Computer Tomography, Interventional Radiology and MRI. Following another sabbatical working on ethics at the Kennedy School, he began teaching Medical Ethics, also at Harvard. He retired in 2001, Professor Emeritus from Harvard, and enjoyed many lovely winters in St. Augustine at what was the home of his parents since the early 1960s. This became his permanent home in 2012.

He is survived by his wife Eleanor, children Stanford, Jennifer Blythe and Jason and daughter in law Dorene, and grandchildren Sydney and Zoe. He will be remembered as a truly good man, mentor to many, and dedicated to his family and the work he also loved.

A Celebration of Doug's life will be on March 29 at 12 noon, the same day as the Blessing of the Fleet, an event he celebrated with a party in his home for many years. Donation to your favorite charity in lieu of flowers if you so wish.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ My thoughts and prayers glare with Douglass's family. Back 50 years ago, I was in children's hospital for some rare tumor surgery and radiation treatments, inwas 12 years old, and from Maine. The Adam's opened up thier home for my mom to stay while I was recovering from surgery, which was so kind of them. They have a special place in my heart along with my mom.

Jeff Hanlon

Jeff Hanlon - April 02 at 04:59 PM

AD

“ I have known Doug and Eleanor for over 50 years. Doug was someone who listened to others intently and with curiosity. What an amazingly kind and generous man he was. So many memories... going to PT together many years ago with Doug's bad left leg and my bad right one. He would pick me up to go to PT before he dropped us off at BWH before work. So many lovely dinner parties at each of our houses. So many lively discussions! Sending love to Eleanor, Stan, Jennifer, Jason and Jason's family.

*Anne Korpi Dolan
Portland, Oregon*

Anne Korpi Dolan - March 24 at 04:26 PM

KM

“ I read "somewhere" that good friends are like the stars. You don't always see them but you know they are always there. For 51 years Doug Adams was like a star and my friend. He was a kind and loyal friend to me and later to my husband, Ken. Doug gave the blessing at our wedding, and we were indeed blessed to know him. With love to Eleanor, Stan, Jennifer, and Jason from Kathy Barber McGuckin and Ken McGuckin Prescott, AZ

Kathy Barber McGuckin - March 23 at 10:38 PM

MS

“ With deep sadness, we remember our respectful, intelligent friend, Douglass F. Adams.
He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.
Eleanor, please take care of yourself!
Miki and Wolfgang Schau

Miki Schau - March 22 at 04:47 PM

BI

“ Our very sincere condolences Eleanor, to you and all your family members too. Doug was a special person and a wonderful friend and neighbor, which we will always miss and think of often... Kindest regards, Bill & Crystal Graybeal



Bill - March 21 at 07:00 PM

JA

“ 14 files added to the album Memories



Jason Adams - March 20 at 10:31 PM

JA

“ Though I feel deep sadness at the passing of my father, it is difficult to mourn a life so well lived. He was a kind, generous, thoughtful, and wise man with an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a genuine interest in the goings on of the world, and all of the people in it. His love of his chosen profession was inspiring, and his achievements speak for themselves. He was a caring husband, father and grandfather. I realize how truly fortunate I am to have had him as a parent and as a mentor. I can only look back upon the countless memories that I have of him and feel joy. I will keep him in my heart, always.

Jason Adams - March 20 at 10:15 PM

SA

“ While Dad was born in the depths of the Great Depression, all he saw in the world was beauty, wonder, and opportunities to help others. From his high school days in Daytona, where he organized a before school silent prayer group for fellow students, to his Baptist seminary studies at Stetson, where he went on a trip to the Holy Land, and while there decided he could do more good as a physician. He went on to a distinguished career in medicine, where his students and colleagues looked to him not just for professional mentorship, but often for counsel in their personal lives as well. Friends' and family's lives were too made better by his kindness, wisdom and good humor.

Throughout their 71 years together, he and mom travelled the world: most US States, Mexico, Canada, England, Norway, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Egypt, Israel, Kenya, South Africa, Australia, South Korea and Japan. His advice to everyone was always "Travel while you can." Next was "Don't wait too long to retire." He took his own advice on both counts. Looking back at his life in retirement he often mentioned the many people who had treated him well over the years, and how lucky he had been throughout his life. But wasn't all luck, such a life also takes dedication, wisdom and grace.

When I was little and he was away and I missed him I used to go into his room and poke around in the small box on his dresser where he kept all his treasures: pilot's license, scuba diver certification, captain's bars from the air force, a medal from a conference in South Africa, Mayflower Society membership card, and the greatest treasure of all, his key to the Playboy Club. To me then he was a superhero, master of sea, land and air, and he still is today.

Stanford Adams - March 17 at 05:14 PM

BA

“ 12 files added to the album Adams



Blythe Adams - March 16 at 07:47 PM