



Dr. James Donald Hites

August 7, 1930 - June 28, 2018

Dr James D Hites, 87, passed away peacefully June 28th, 2018 at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado. Son of Gladys and Nester Hites of Ohio, he graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1956. He married his high school sweetheart, Sylvia, in 1952. They honeymooned at Grand Lake. She earned her nursing degree from Ohio State also. He had worked two summers on the unfinished Granby Reservoir Farr Pumping Plant.

Two years U.S. Army medical service were followed by seven busy years of general practice in Cortez and southwest Colorado. In 1966, the family moved to Ft. Collins. Nineteen years of devoted family practice followed during which he made house calls and was generous to patients as a Board Certified Family Physician while on the medical staff at Poudre Valley Hospital. After a short break, he covered for a friend's practice in Alaska for an emergency. An unexpected request came to be the Shipboard Doctor for the fall 1986 Semester at Sea voyage. Jim and Sylvia found amazing experiences! He changed to locum tenens medicine. He filled various requests for a short-term doctor in ten states from Ohio to Alaska for 23 more years, and Sylvia usually accompanied him. They were living at Grand Lake when he had a bad heart attack and realized he needed lower altitude. They returned to Ft. Collins.

Jim belonged to Westminster Presbyterian Church then Trinity Church in The

Pines at Grand Lake. He was in The Friendship Force, Rotary (in Cortez) and had helped with Boy Scouts. Jim loved fishing, flying, college football, and music; his humor will be missed by many.

He leaves devoted family - wife of 65 years Sylvia, son Steven (Gayla) of Skagway, Alaska and Redmond, WA; daughter Lucinda (David) Hites-Clabaugh of Forest Grove, OR; daughter Sarah Clements (Brad) of Granby, CO; two grandsons, Alwyn and Ryan, and two great grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by daughter Kathryn.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am, Saturday, September 29, 2018 at Trinity Church in the Pines, 604 Lake Ave, Grand Lake, CO, with burial at Grand Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Poudre Valley Hospital Foundation or a charity of your choice. Many thanks to Goes Funeral Care, the Cardiac Unit at Poudre Valley Hospital and all the caring nurses and doctors who took care of him during the last years.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **29**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Trinity Church in the Pines
604 Lake Ave
Grand Lake, CO 80447

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. James Donald Hites*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *It has been a year, and I'm still kicking myself for not writing this sooner. My heart was saddened when I read of Dr. Hites' passing. I was a new graduate nurse in the nursery when I met him. I worked nights, and he was about the only doctor that ever wondered in just to see how a patient was doing on my shift. Not only was he a crack up and fun to be around, he was a very talented physician who cared so very much about people. I never heard anyone say anything about him that wasn't complimentary. Please know that he was loved and respected by many nurses.*

Suzanne Richmond - September 06, 2019 at 09:23 PM



“ *Fantastic doctor. He was our family doctor for many years. He saw us through cancer, pneumonia, severed fingers, broken bones and more. He always showed a great sense of humor and he always called to see how we were doing. Certainly missed him when he quit practicing medicine. I am certain he is still looking after us from heaven. He was so witty and made me laugh after surgery--those stitches hurt. He will be missed.*

Doris Hime and Blair Hard - September 16, 2018 at 02:54 PM

VM

“ Dr. James Hites was a wonderful man. I had the privilege of working with him as his office nurse from 1976 to 1979. He taught me so much about medicine and caring for patients. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a generous heart. After working for him he was responsible for getting me a job with Princess Cruises in California with a glowing recommendation. We keep touch through out the years and was my doctor for my children as well as taking care of me during my pregnancy's. I am sorry to hear of his passing, but I'm sure he is continuing to care for people in Heaven as he did on earth. For all who knew him and loved him... he will be missed. Love and prayers, Vickie Maska

Vickie Maska - July 18, 2018 at 12:44 PM

NC

I will never forget Dr. Hites. As an R.N. with my long pony tail. In a sweet and kind manner he would pull on my pony tail. I am just now reading of his passing. One of the first M.D.s I met as a graduate nurse at Poudre Valley Hospital. Blessings to his loved ones. 💜🙏

Nancy Chandler Clark - April 18, 2020 at 03:27 PM

TG

“ *Dr. Jim’s passing was a great loss for all his Ohio relatives also. We all enjoyed his many visits. He would always entertain us with stories from his medical practice and Alaska.*

There was the one about the tree trimmer who fell out of the tree with a running chainsaw in hand. . He was cut up severely but did survive thanks to Jim. Another was about the time it got so cold in Alaska that the propane tanks froze up. Somebody got the brilliant idea of starting a fire under a tank to thaw it. I believe they survived also.

He also brought his medical bag with him and we would all lie up for wart removal. He did it the old fashioned way, with local anesthesia and a scalpel, and they did not return.

He kept close tabs on all the extended family members and would always keep us up to date on their activities which was much appreciated.

God speed on your new journey Dr. Jim. We will all miss you.

Tom Ginter and all the Ohio relatives

Tom Ginter - July 17, 2018 at 07:04 PM

JO

“ I didn't know Dr. Hites as a physician, but as the father of my good friend Steve. Whenever I would visit their home, I always enjoyed talking to Dr. Hites. He was very funny, witty, and kind. He answered the door one time dressed head to toe in Ohio State garb, the stereo blasting music from the Buckeye Marching Band. They were playing in a bowl game that night, and he was ready to cheer them on. He was a wonderful guy.

Jim Owens

Jim Owens - July 10, 2018 at 11:10 AM

SW

“ Dr. Hites was a favorite doctor of all time. I had a friend with a very sick baby (1970's) and he called her in the middle of the night to be sure she had given the baby her medication! He also, when doing a house call, would sit down and play the piano if one was available! Wonderful man and doctor.

Sandy Walker - July 09, 2018 at 02:11 PM

DB

“ Through off-and-on contact with Jim through the years, it's really quite easy for me to 'land' on one character trait which, for me, provides the best description: caring. Plainly and simply, that's it. I know all docs are supposed to have that at their core.. but not all truly do. Jim did, and provided it with both wisdom and humor. Life is lived well when one blesses others and is blessed in return.

Dave Brown - July 08, 2018 at 12:33 PM

DB

“ Wonderful doctor. Great sense of humor, like the time he bandaged my head after removing a cyst, then unbeknownst to me inserted a feather in the bandage, indian style, so that I would make a splash in the waiting room as I left the office. Once when we moved the day of an appointment and were temporarily without a phone, Dr. Hites tracked us down to make an unheard of house call to let us know our son's lab tests showed a need for immediate antibiotics. I considered it an honor to advise him regarding teaching high school science in lieu of medicine practice.
Dennis and Judi Baker

Dennis and Judi Baker - July 06, 2018 at 09:53 AM

DB

“ Dennis And Judi Baker lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Donald Hites



Dennis and Judi Baker - July 06, 2018 at 09:47 AM

KB

Dr. Hites was a wonderful person, Dr. and friend to many. I lived on Circle Drive at one point and was walking to the hospital and he took me to work. Visited but was so shy and told me to speak up. Have to laugh at this now but at the time did wake me up. I enjoyed seeing Dr. Hites at the hospital and meeting in the hallways while he was doing rounds. My mother Jane Holtzinger enjoyed Dr. Hites and was her Dr. for awhile. Fond memories of a dear, man. My condolences to all.

Katherine Holtzinger Bridwell - September 26, 2018 at 11:31 AM