



Dr. Joshua Fry Bullitt Camblos

August 16, 1916 - June 17, 2012

Dr. “Josh” Camblos, who practiced surgery in Asheville for 34 years, died peacefully at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community following a brief illness. He was 95 years old. Born in Big Stone Gap, VA on August 16, 1916, he was the son of the late James Lyle Camblos and Margaret Bullitt Camblos.

After graduating from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, VA, Josh received both his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Virginia. He graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1939, and in 1943 received his M.D. He was on the medical school Dean’s List for all four years and was elected a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society.

Josh’s medical training was interrupted late in 1943 when he was called to active duty in the Navy. In World War II he served as the medical officer for Escort Division 55, composed of six anti-submarine destroyer escorts and 1200 Naval personnel. He saw action in the North and South Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific.

Upon discharge from the Navy in 1946, Josh returned to the University of Virginia to complete his surgical residency. This was followed by further training at the newly formed Norburn Hospital in Asheville, at the Memorial Hospital in Manhattan, and finally at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, where he

served as Dr. Lahey's first assistant.

In June 1950 Josh returned with his young family to open his surgical practice in Asheville. He became recognized at once by his Asheville colleagues as a particularly skilled surgeon whose interests and capabilities spanned several varied fields of surgery. Josh served as Chief of Staff at Mission Hospital in 1970-71 and Vice-chairman of St Joseph's Hospital Foundation from 1976-1978. He also served on the Board of The Health Adventure, was Board Member Emeritus of Mountain Area Hospice, and founded Regional Surgical Specialists in 1980 where he served as the senior surgeon until his retirement in 1984.

Because of his special interest in cancer surgery, Josh was one of the founders of the Buncombe County unit of the American Cancer Society in the early '50s. He devoted many years to the control of cancer, progressing from the local unit and clinic, through the NC Division of the American Cancer Society, and finally to the National American Cancer Society which awarded him the 1977 Distinguished Service Award.

A life-long Episcopalian, Josh served on the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Deerfield Board of Directors. He was also a member of the Biltmore Forest Country Club.

From his youth, Josh knew he would focus his life on his two passions, medicine and the outdoors. He spent countless hours exploring the woods of southwest Virginia, and a keen interest in ornithology persisted throughout his life. His detailed notes and collection of eggs of Virginia's wild birds is now housed in the Smithsonian Institution. As an avid outdoorsman Josh enjoyed hunting and fishing, hiking and camping, and birdwatching. He caught rattlesnakes to aid in the development of anti-venom and worked with Chimney Rock Park to successfully revive the local Peregrine Falcon population. Josh was a Trustee of the NC Nature Conservancy, a Board

member of the Asheville Nature Center, on the NC Wildlife's Endangered Species Commission, and a 50 year member of Seniard Creek Rod and Gun Club in Asheville. After retiring, he conducted ornithology classes at UNC Asheville, High Hampton Inn, and the Swag. He was also able to pursue his lifelong talent as a wildlife artist.

Josh was preceded in death by his beautiful wife of 66 years, Ruth Gardner Hensley Camblos of Asheville; three children, Charles Christian Camblos, Joshua Fry Bullitt Camblos, Jr., and Margaret Bullitt Camblos. He is survived by his daughter, Helen Stuart Camblos of Asheville; granddaughter Jennifer Stuart Royall of Asheville; granddaughter Caroline Bryan Royall of Richmond, VA; granddaughter Margaret Bullitt Royall of Ithaca, NY, married to Dr. Robert Dale Reed;; and great-grandson, Forrest Royall Reed.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church on Friday, June 29 at 11am. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Nature Center, Gashes Creek Rd, Asheville, NC, 28805, or Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St., Asheville, NC, 28801.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Episcopal Churchyard

2840 Hendersonville Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

Previous Events

Service

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church
60 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Joshua Fry Bullitt Camblos*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I had the privilege of meeting Josh years ago when he would come to Chimney Rock to monitor the activity of our birds of prey. His love of the outdoors and his kind and gentle spirit inspired me. I feel very fortunate to have known and learned from Josh. What a joy he was. He will be missed by all of us.*

*Mary Jaeger-Gale
Chimney Rock Park*

Mary Jaeger-Gale - July 03, 2012 at 03:00 PM



“ *He was a wonderful surgeon. I was one of his patients and greatly appreciated what he did for me. With deepest sympathy and condolences. Robert R. Williams, Canton, N.C.*

Robert R. Williams - June 24, 2012 at 10:05 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Dr. Josh Camblos*



Morris Funeral Home - June 22, 2012 at 01:15 PM

MB

Dr. Camblos was the greatest surgeon Asheville has ever had or will have. He saved my life twice. He was an extremely caring person and will be missed by all. So sorry. God bless his family . Mildred Banks

Mildred B. Banks - June 24, 2012 at 04:05 PM

BO

Dr. Camblos was a great Physician and friend. He was a true Gentleman. My and my familie's condolence to his family.

Benjamin R. Olinger M.D.

Benjamin R. Olinger - June 27, 2012 at 11:24 AM

BM

We extend our sympathy to the family, and it is also a time to celebrate the life of the ultimate physician, surgeon, and person who did so much to better the medical community and this area. They can be very proud. He will be missed. Dr. and Mrs. Barry Pate

Barry R. Pate M.D. - June 29, 2012 at 10:42 AM