

Dr. James A. Tibbitts

August 12, 1927 - August 19, 2021

Dr. James A. Tibbitts, 94, passed away August 19, 2021, at Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, PA. He was the husband of Shirley (Reynolds) Tibbitts, and son of Eugene and Ima (Hastings) Tibbitts. Born in Reedsburg, Wisconsin on August 12, 1927, Dr. Tibbitts enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1945 and was honorably discharged in August 1946. He received his medical degree from the University of WI in 1953 and practiced medicine in that state until moving to Jonestown, PA, in 1966. He served Jonestown and surrounding areas as their doctor until retiring in 1995. Active in the regional community, he was a member of the Jonestown Lion's Club, Jonestown Male Chorus, Pennsylvania Medical Society, Lebanon Choral Society, Susquehanna Chorale, and other civic groups. He served as physician for Northern Lebanon High School, was president of Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Staff (Lebanon, PA) from 1984 to 1986, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and WITF-FM public radio. Dr. Tibbitts was a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, PA, since 1984, and Saint John's UCC in Jonestown prior to that. Dr. Tibbitts reveled in being a family-practice country doctor. He served 6 years as County Coroner for Sauk County, WI. He made house calls at all hours, until late in his career. He delivered over 2,000 babies in WI and PA, and loved being approached by strangers in public, to be told he had delivered those people as babies. He loved his wife Shirley, his children and grandchildren, his in-laws, reading, music, humor, history, astronomy, birdwatching, Brit-coms, gardening, travel, talking, joking, Spike Jones, Car

Talk, Bix Biederbecke, genealogy, Wilbur Chocolate, coffee, popcorn, and corn on the cob. He sang in groups ranging from barber shop quartets to church choirs. He played in several bell choirs, even after a stroke deprived him of use of one hand, saying "Sooner or later everybody needs an F Sharp." Dr. Tibbitts was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Tom (Ruth), Robert, Douglas (Marion), George, and Joseph, by Shirley his wife of 65 years, and son Mark. He is survived by children Christina (John) Knezevich of Newark Valley, NY, Elizabeth (Dale) Buonocore of Warren, PA, and Timothy (Sue Rutman) Tibbitts of Tucson, AZ; daughter-in-law Erika (Fairlamb) Tibbitts; grandchildren Brian Knezevich, Sarah/Shane (Tim) Snyder, Dr. Jonathan Buonocore, and Cathryn Buonocore (Rob Gustafson); great grandchildren Fiona and Seamus Knezevich; sister-in-law Carol (Meyer) Tibbitts; brother-in-law Eugene Reynolds; and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., August 26, 2021, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 South 12th St., Lebanon, PA. Masks required; social distancing observed. Interment to follow at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery, Jonestown, PA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may be made to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, PA, the American Cancer Society, or other health care entities.

Cemetery Details

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery

103 E. Market Street
Jonestown, PA 17038

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
600 S. 12th St.
Lebanon, PA

Tribute Wall

LO

“ I shared a brief correspondence with Dr. Tibbitts after the death of my dad, his cousin. A couple of those cousins had birthdays around that time of year and Dr. Tibbitts understood that it was a sad time of year for me as Dad passed away on July 22, a week before his 80th birthday. Dr. Tibbitts' missives were intelligent and funny. I see he himself passed away a week after his own birthday this year. Sad news. My dad remembered his cousin as a serious and witty man and would have appreciated his cousin's small and sympathetic kindness to me.

Lorie - September 26, 2021 at 02:21 PM

ML

“ What can I say? I met Doc and his wonderful family many years ago through work. I enjoyed his sarcasm, wit, and intelligence. I'll miss sharing my birds and animal pics with him. I hope they brought some light into his day. He is one I will never forget. A one of a kind man! I will miss our talks and picking on each other the most. He was truly a friend and will always be in my heart. He will be greatly missed,



Missy Long - August 23, 2021 at 10:40 AM

SL

I have known Doc for most my life(45+ yrs).He was my Dr .growing up and my neighbor. I had the privilege of really getting to know him over the past 8yrs. He was a kind, grateful and whitty man with a keen sense of humor. I will miss him dearly . My thoughts go out to his family. And yes Doc my butt is much bigger than when you gave me kindergarten shots! R.I.P.

Stacy Ebersole Landis - August 25, 2021 at 09:27 PM

MC

“ Dr. Tibbitts and family were a great part of Reedsburg. He will be truly missed. Thoughts and prayers to his family.

MRk Clossey - August 22, 2021 at 12:37 PM

RH

“ It was about 45-46 years ago I was in a pick up ice hockey game on lake Strauss. It was a Sunday around one when randy swanger accidentally lifted the puck to high and hit me in the fore head. Down i went. Doc Tibbitts was skating with some friends and either saw or heard the commotion and came over. You need stitches. No I don't ,I said. YES you do!! he said. He won and seven stitches later I thanked him.I ruined his day but he did his duty as a doctor and a good person. Thanks again,DOC !

Rick Herr - August 22, 2021 at 11:14 AM

CM

“ THERE ARE NO MORE DR.S LIKE HIM ANYMORE. I WOULD GET SEVERE ASTHMA ATTACKS AND COULDN'T BREATHE. I WOULD CALL HIS OFFICE AND HE SAW ME RIGHT AWAY. GOT AN ATTACK AROUND 9:00 AT NIGHT AND I WENT TO HIS HOUSE , TO GET THE SHOTS I NEEDED. HE WAS A GOOD DOCTOR . IT IS SO SAD THE WAY THESE DOCTORS ARE TODAY. RIP DR. TIBBITTS. YOU ARE SURELY MISSED.

CINDY MILLER - August 22, 2021 at 11:06 AM

SA

“ Oh, what a loss. Jim was such a wonderful man I knew my entire life...and I know many others would say the same, as he really touched SO many people. I'm so glad I got to reconnect with him in the last few years that I know were hard for him, but he made the best of it. Rest easy, Jim. <3

Samantha - August 22, 2021 at 08:22 AM

RH

“ About 10 years ago I ran into Dr. Tibbits and shared this childhood memory, and we both had a good laugh! Sometime around 1968 I had an appointment with Dr. Tibbits in Jonestown, and as a kid, it was the first time that I remember having my blood pressure checked. I observed cautiously as he stoically wrapped the band around my right arm and began pumping away. Being new to the experience, I was concerned as to what fate awaited me. As the pressure increased I nervously asked, "Is this going to hurt?" He paused for a second, locked eyes with mine, and without expression replied, "Only if you laugh." Now I guess the cognitive development of a 6-year old has not yet reached the level where one can appreciate the nuances of a dry sense of humor, and for the remainder of my childhood I refused to crack a smile once that foreboding gray band was wrapped around my arm!

Randy Haldeman - August 22, 2021 at 01:03 AM

BB

“ Doc Tibbitts was the BEST doctor ever serving Jonestown and the surrounding communities. He was a fair and caring man as well. I also went to his home when I was sick. Certainly dedicated to his profession. We were all so fortunate and blessed to be graced with his medical expertise, humor, and his additional community involvement. His wife, Shirley, was a wonderful woman serving at St. John's UCC as music director for many years. So sad to hear of his passing. Many blessings to his children. He is now home with Shirley and Mark. God bless your families during this difficult time. You can be mighty proud of Your Dad, he was top notch!

Beverly Houser Brewer - August 21, 2021 at 09:53 PM

LZ

“ *Best doctor EVER! It was quite evident how dedicated he was to his profession and his patients; all while having a great sense of whitty humor. I was fortunate to spend time with the family in my younger years and will never forget seeing him enjoy making popcorn in the family room fireplace. To his children...my heart is with you all during this difficult time. Rest assured, he made an amazing mark in this world. Rest peacefully Doc.*

Lori Miller Zettlemyer - August 21, 2021 at 09:23 PM

DE

“ *Ill remember his fun quick wit. Whether I was doing Laundry Housekeeping or Nurse Aide shifts, he always had something funny to say- and even remembered me (though sometimes there would be months in between times he'd see me) He also always asked me about a lady I used to clean for privately who was the wife of a friend of his. Thoughts and prayers being sent out for all of his loved ones*



Debbie Evans - August 21, 2021 at 06:44 PM

DE

*I was blessed to meet some of his loved ones recently while doing Greeter shifts .
My heart goes out to everyone who knew and loved "DOC"*

Debbie Evans - August 21, 2021 at 06:52 PM

MB

“ Our first child Rodney was supposed to be born on July 13, but that doesn't happen like it's supposed to. Dr T was on vacation on July 4th and it was Suzanne's wedding day. He was to sing at her wedding! When he heard the baby was coming, he rushed to the hospital and delivered Rodney. He got to the wedding to sing at the very last minute. I'm sure he was chuckling, but I KNOW Suzanne was not.

Tina was also a dear friend of my sister Elaine at school.

Many more special memories! We were blessed!

Marlene Bomgardner

Marlene Bomgardner - August 21, 2021 at 02:57 PM

KE

“ Tim, I'm so sorry for your loss. It was a blessing you were able to come in and see him. His picture looks just as I remembered him as he was our doctor in the '70s when we lived near Lickdale. My heart goes out to you.

Karen Payne Edwards - August 21, 2021 at 12:21 PM

MD

“ Always loved our chats when we bumped into each other.
R.I.P. Jim Tibbitts ❤️

Marie DiFava - August 21, 2021 at 11:39 AM

SA

“ My family lived a few houses down from Dr. Tibbitts in Jonestown. It seems my kids never got sick during the week, but always on weekends. If I called his office, Dr. Tibbitts would walk down to our house and treat my girls. It was a time after doctors made house calls and I always appreciated that kindness so much. I also will always remember what a great sense of humor he had, in and out of the office. I know he is now with Jesus and Shirley.

Sandy - August 21, 2021 at 11:00 AM

RF

“ My family doctor for many years. Always there for you under all circumstances. There could never be another Dr. Tibbitts. We love him. The Richard L Flowers family

Richard I. Flowers - August 21, 2021 at 10:39 AM


SP

“ He was our family dr from 1970 till retired
He was so caring no matter what health issue you had
Yes he did make house calls in the middle of the night when our daughter had pneumonia
He always had time to see you
My whole family loved him
The Peiffer's

Shirley Peiffer - August 21, 2021 at 07:34 AM

KL

“ Dear Tibbitts family,
Your Father was one of a kind. I started working for him right out of college as a young, non-cultured girl. I quickly caught on to his dry sense of humor and jokes but also learned some very valuable lessons that I carried with me in my healthcare career. I worked for him for 14 years up until his retirement. I am currently working in Palmyra and still run into former patients who always ask how he's doing and have a story to share, one that usually involves laughter. I'm very sorry for your loss. Praying that your memories bring you much comfort during this time.



Kim Lingle

Kim Lingle - August 20, 2021 at 08:53 PM

LH

Praying for comfort for the family. He was my doctor and I appreciated all he did for my family. He even had me bring my children to his house for care after hours. He was one of a kind and he will be greatly missed!!

Lori Hawkins Hoffman

Lori Hoffman - August 21, 2021 at 08:52 AM

LS

As the next-door neighbor for 27 years, we had many, many good times together, especially in the swimming pool. Doc was always welcome to come over and take a dip, and he did... Our kids always looked forward to being able to jump on his innertube, and try to knock him off. We shared lots of fun with the family, and were really sorry to hear of his passing. Knowing what a fine Christian man he was, we all know he is now with Shirley and Jesus, and still cracking his jokes... Love to the family, and hope we can see you to tell you so in person.

Lois (and Russ) Strauss

Lois Strauss and Russell Strauss - August 22, 2021 at 07:49 PM

SD

We moved to Jonestown in 1972, and from that time on Doctor Tibbitts was our doctor. We also were his neighbor in Colonial Village. He pierced my ears when I was a teenager because my Mom wouldn't allow me to have it done in one of those earring places at the mall. He delivered my son and continued to be his baby doctor. He used to make house calls to our place for my Grandmother, when she was too ill to go to his office. And he was there with my Brother the day my family needed him the most. I will never forget him always being there for me and my family over the years.

Thank You Doctor Tibbitts!

Sherie Mace Doster/Ron & Sally Mace

Sherie Doster - August 25, 2021 at 12:46 PM