



Dr. Joe Puckett

Dr. Billy Joe Puckett, 81, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died June 17, 2009, at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Born November 21, 1927 in Ashdown, Arkansas, he was the son of Willie Puckett and Lala Thrash Puckett. Dr. Puckett graduated from Ashdown High School in 1945. On June 19, 1947, he married Bettye Jo Waddell in Ashdown, Arkansas. He attended Henderson University in Arkadelphia and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelors Degree in pre-medicine. He received his Doctorate in Medicine in 1953 from the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock. He served in the U.S. Air Force for three years after he received his doctorate. In 1956 he began his practice in Siloam Springs. He was one of three physicians at the original Siloam Springs Medical Center. He retired in July 2001 after 45 years as a family physician. Dr. Puckett was a member of the Siloam Springs Rotary Club for 40 years where he won the Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award for leadership and community service; he served as President of the Siloam Springs School Board for 10 of his 11 years on the Board. He received an honorary award at the American Academy of Family Practice, and was a member of the Arkansas Medical Society of Benton County. He was inducted into the Arkansas Country Doctors' Hall of Fame in 2008. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Melba Jones and Patsy McClendon all of Ashdown. Survivors include his wife Bettye of the home; one son, Todd Puckett of Chicago, Illinois; two daughters, Deborah Bailey and

husband Rick of Bartlesville, Ok and Melanie Warder and husband Rodney, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; and three grandchildren, Britney Fox and husband Ryan, Brooke Fowler and husband Chris, and Cole Bailey.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 20, 2009, at the First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, with Dr. John Terry and Dr. Jerry Hopkins officiating. Burial will be private. The family will receive visitors from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 19, 2009, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 356, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall



“ *When I would take my dear Mom (or an appt for me) to see Dr. Puckett, it was always like chatty family time. Missing him soooo much these days! ♥♥♥♥*

Marianne Davis - March 13, 2022 at 12:10 AM

AK

“ *I found Dr. Puckett's obituary on the website only today and wanted to send my love and condolences to the family. I have many memories of Dr. P, not only from visits to their house but his days with the Ramblers band, and giving me my high school diploma. Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Allen Kimbrough - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

BM

“ *Remembering Dr. Puckett fondly from my time at First Baptist in Siloam Springs a few years ago. Much love to Bettye who was my Sunday School teacher and dear friend during that time, and prayers to all the family.*

Betty McGill - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DB

“ *We are so sorry for the passing of Dr Puckett. He was our friend and doctor for many years. We loved him very much.*
Debra (Brinkley) Roberts
and
Christina Jo Brinkley

Debra Roberts and Christina Brinkley - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

LS

“ Dear Mrs. Puckett and family-
I just heard about Dr. Puckett this evening. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. He was a sweet and wonderful man. May the peace of our Lord Jesus be with each of you. Much love to you all. Lisa

Lisa Schmidt - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

JK

“ Bettye, Melanie, Todd, and my dearest friend, Deb: I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers. The most cruel part of tomorrow is that the world goes on like normal. Nothing is normal for you now, nor will it be for a long, long time. Here's the good news....God is holding you and giving you the strength you need to get through each day without this wonderful husband and father. Trust in God to see you through this horrific time. How blessed we all are to have known Dr. Puckett.

Jane Anne Knight - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

RP

“ We wish to extend our heart felt sorrow to Dr. Puckett's family. It was an honor to have him as our family doctor because he treated you as one of his family. My father loved to see the doc because he would not condemn him for smoking but would share one with him out the back door of the clinic. He will surely be missed.

Ron & Billie Pepper - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

LC

“ It's sad to hear that another one of our local family doctors has left our community. However, it's great to know that, along with multitudes of others, he is with my Jesus! I missed having him as my childhood doctor, but remember seeing him & his family weekly at church. I fondly remember Bettye's Sunday School lessons at the old FBC. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers --

Lucy

Lucy (Kennedy) Cundiff - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DV

“ Dr. Puckett was the best OB Dr. I have ever had the privilege of assisting in the OB department. Thanks for the memories!!!!!!

Don and Joyve Voss - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

KM

“ I was proud to know Billy as so many were. I always enjoyed visiting with him at hospital staff meetings. He was a role model for me. I know you are proud of what he accomplished as well you should be. We will have you in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Kellye

Kellye McElroy, M.D. - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

TE

“ To the family,

It was an honor to care for your family during the loss of one of Siloam's finest physicians. Dr. Puckett was steadfast in his care of patients and in his love for Siloam Springs. He will be greatly missed in our community. May God keep you close as you mourn his passing.

Tim Estes - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

NF

“ We just returned from Iowa and were so sad to see that Doc had passed away. We loved and respected him very much, and we will miss him tremendously.

Norma Flory - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MF

“ He was the standard to which I measured all doctors to. Are prayers are with the family at this time of loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Farmer - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

LO

“ Dear Bettye, Deborah, Melanie and Todd,

Our hearts are very sad to hear of Dr. Puckett's death. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you.

Larry and Joanne O'Kelley - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

GW

“ Dear Puckett Family,

Please know how saddened we were to hear of Dr. Puckett's passing. He was not only our family's physician but long-time mentor and friend to the Ware family. We really enjoyed the time to visit in your home last year, Bettye. Please know you and your family will be remembered in prayer.

YOU are much loved!!!

Gerald Ware

Gerald Ware - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MW

“ Dear Bettye, Todd, Melanie and Deborah;
I have been out of town and I just learned of your loss today when I read the newspaper. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all. He was a good man and will be greatly missed. May God bless and comfort each of you.
Martha Walker

Martha Walker - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

AR

“ Dr. Bill was our family dr. I remember when he delivered my third son and I was pacing around the room like a pet coon and he said you're a little nervous aren't you boy? I was, but he soon made me feel at ease. If Dr Bill told me the world was square I would have believed it. He assisted me on a surgery I did on their beloved little dog and I could tell he would have liked to take the instruments into his own skilled hands. He truly was a good man and I thought the world of him.

A.J. Rapp - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

TB

“ It was my honor to assist with his care while he was in ICU. He was a funny and caring man. He talked about his family with a loving tone in voice.
He will always be in my thoughts and the family will be in my prayers..
God bless his family

Trina R Casillas RN BSN - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

RQ

“ Dr. Puckett was a good friend who loved country music. I worked at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital for 12 years and he was a very good doctor. God Bless his wife and family and my heart goes out to them at this time. Heaven has gained another "Great" Soul. Ray Qualls

Ray Qualls - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SB

“ Dr. Puckett wasn't just my Dr. but he was also my friend. We had music in common. He played drums and sang one time with us. He and Betty were always at our steel guitar conventions. I believe this was the first year they didn't get to attend out of 15 years of having it. They were both missed. My prayers go out to Betty and the family. He will surely be missed. God Bless you all.

Sissy Welch and Angel Burke - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

CC

“ My prayers and sympathy go out to you. May you find the peace that comes only from our Lord Jesus Christ. Many fond memories, He was a special person. Carolyn

Carolyn McReynolds Curry - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

BG

“ We were both so sorry to hear of Dr. Puckett's passing. He was a very good and caring Dr and will be missed. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.

Love,

Bill and Barbara

Bill and Barbara Griscom - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SS

“ Our prayers are with you Dr. Puckett, as I know that yours were with me many times throughout the years. Thank you for being there always. You will be terribly missed.

God bless,
Sandy Scott

Sandra Scott - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DD

“ Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Dr. Puckett was a very special person to our family as he was to so many.

Dwight & Marsha Dean - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

BB

“ My sincere sympathy for your personal lose, for the community's lose of a great doctor. I remember your visit to the Country Doctors Museum with such pleasure.

Betty Battenfield - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

RH

“ I feel like I lost not only the doctor who listened many times to my delimas, but my friend, who was very compassionate always to me and to my family. I have called many times to the house to see what he thought I should do with a sick or injured child and he always gave me advice on what was best to do. I can't imagine raising my children without him. He enriched my soul through the years. I will miss him!

Rita

Rita (Fox) Hopkins - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

BM

“ Dear Bettye, Melanie, Deborah and Todd, I am truly sorry for your loss. I have known you all forever and have respect and love for all of you. I always enjoyed talking with Dr. Puckett over the years. My prayers are with all of you.

Bevra Mickel - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DW

“ Bob and Molly appreciated Dr. Puckett very much for his welcoming us to the area, especially when we first arrived in Gentry to work at the Gentry Medical Center. He and his wife Betty always showed us hospitality and kindness in varied situations. He will be missed and will be remembered by all our family.

Dr. and Mrs Robert Weaver - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

PE

“ I was sad to hear of Dr Puckett's passing. I can safely say I knew him all of my life, which made it easy to start my life with my husband, with your family right across the street. It was so comforting to me to look out my front window from what was my grandma's house, to see your family as you came and went.

I know how much you'll miss him, but I also know how happy you are that he's now with his creator and is better than he was in the best years of his life. I pray for peace of mind for all of you and hope you will continue to look to the future, while fondly remembering the past.

God bless!

Patti

Patti Van Poucke Eiland - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SW

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. The Lord be with you and give you comfort during this time.

Steven & Ann Woodruff - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MH

“ Betty and family: Dr. Puckett was more to me than just "my personal physician." He was a caring friend. He always took the time to talk to me about other things in life besides just being my doctor. We always enjoyed visiting about our golf game. He was so special to my parents. He was there during the happiest of times in their life, and during the saddest times also. Every time that I would be in his office, he would always come in humming a song, and smiling. "Earths loss is Heavens Gain." May God comfort you as he only can. I will miss him greatly.
mark hendren

mark hendren - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MS

“ Betty, reading of Billy Joe's death brought back many fond memories of the days when we lived in the same apartment complex in Little Rock during the years of Medical School. Keeping in touch during more recent years was almost like picking up where we left off back then. I keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. If I can do anything to help you -- now or later -- please let me know.

Margaret Smith - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

WB

“ *Billy was an awesome friend and fantastic physician. Since leaving Siloam I have truly missed his wit and personality, he will be missed not only by his family but by the community...Bettye and Melanie I am so sorry for your loss....Much Love to you both..Wayne and Donna*

Wayne Brashear - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

LL

“ *My thoughts and prayers will be with your family.*

Lynda Lemke - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MM

“ *Debbie, Melanie and Family,
Your families will be in my prayers. I haven't seen you in such a long time but I can still remember the sweet disposition of your Dad. He was kind, gentle and helped so many residents of Siloam. May you find comfort and peace in the midst of your loss. Take care.*

Michal Hall Montgomery - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MP

“ *We were so sorry to hear of Doc's passing and know he will be greatly missed by all. I'll always remember the times he stitched my cuts and bandaged my many hurts while living next door for so many years. It was a great stress reliever for my mother having a doctor right next door and your dad was always willing to help when we would come running. Deborah, your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.
Carie and Mark Pryor*

Mark and Carie (McReynolds) Pryor - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

CA

“ DR. Puckett, Betty and family,

You will be missed so much and we love you !! You delivered both of my children and did all my surgery's and I want to Thank you !! You always had great Christian advice to share with me ! Hope your family can enjoy the BABY FOOD JAR CHRISTMAS TREE that mom (Mable Jordan) made you !!You found her cancer in 1976 and she fought the battle and won 26 years! She is now with Jesus since Dec.2002! See you in Heaven!!

*The Arnold Family
Richard and Connie
Jeff Trammell
Katrina Wright*

Connie Arnold - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

LF

“ Betty and family,

I am so sorry for the loss of Dr. Puckett. I have so much appreciated your friendship since we came to Siloam. I am out of state now - but my prayers are with you.

Lavada Ford - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

JH

“ *This was truly one of our beloved doctors, who contributed greatly to this community. We can never forget his endearing smile, and his kindness for everyone.*

*Sincerely,
John and Ann Haid*

John and Ann Haid - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SW

“ txh9F7

Sharon Wood - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

RD

“ *Melanie & Brooke, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you girls.*

Renaë Davis - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

GW

“ *We are sorry for your loss*

Greg and Gail Walters - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SR

“ *My prayers are with you through this time. I didn't know Dr. Puckett until after he had retired. He is such a Godly man. I see why he is so well loved. Sheila Reynolds*

Sheila Reynolds - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

B(

“ *Melanie,
I was so sorry to her about your dad. Last week Aunt Linda told me he was still in the hospital. I wanted you to know I was thinking about you during this difficult time because I've been there and all you can do is pray!
I will talk to you soon.*

Breanna Adams (Faught) - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MF

“ Just wanted to let you know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. So very sorry to hear of your loss.

Love ya,
Margie

Margie Farley - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

BW

“ Praying for peace for your family during this difficult time.

Brian and Julie Wood - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

MR

“ As you know, Dr. Puckett was very, very special to us. Even though we know he is in a much better place and without pain, we already miss him. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know what we can do to help.

Mike & Debby Rowe - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DT

“ Deborah and family,
So sorry to hear about your dad. He was a wonderful dad and physician. I have so many great memories of him. He was loved and appreciated by our family.
Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time. God bless.

Dr. Tim Taylor - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

SJ

“ *Bettye, Deborah, Melanie and Todd, my prayers are with every one of you at this time. I am truly saddened. The twelve years I worked for Dr. Puckett, I learned so very much from him. He truly loved his patienta and his practice so very much. He was truly a wonderful Dr. Sophia*

Sophia Jones - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM

RM

“ *Bettye, Melanie, Deborah & Todd:*
We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Puckett. We have fond memories growing up around Melanie & Deborah being our babysitter during the summers. Your family has always been dear to us. Dr. Puckett was our doctor for our whole family for many many years and we cherish that and will never forget him. He was a great man and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts & prayers are with you.

Roy Gene Mason, Darla Scott & Teresa Martin - September 19, 2012 at 01:07 PM