



# **William L. Bourland M.D.**

JAN 18, 1947 - APR 10, 2018



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## **William L. Bourland M.D.**

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**D**r. William Landess Bourland passed into eternal life on April 10, 2018, at the age of 71 after a difficult struggle with Parkinson's Disease. Bill was a renaissance man with many talents, varied interests, and much wisdom; his teacher's heart led him to use all of his gifts and experiences to teach and help others. Born in Memphis, Bill enjoyed his childhood in Hein Park and dearly loved his wonderful parents, Dr. Leon and Rosa Bourland. In 1965, he graduated from Central High School where he served as president of the student body and formed many lifelong friendships. At Vanderbilt University he made more dear friends as a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and graduated in 1969 with a degree in chemistry. After he earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, he interned at Methodist Hospital, then completed his residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Campbell Clinic and a fellowship in hand surgery at the University of Virginia. After his training, Bill practiced at OrthoMemphis (formerly The Orthopaedic Clinic) for over 40 years with colleagues he loved and respected. He was an esteemed hand surgeon who was active in many professional organizations and served as a founder and past president of the Tennessee Hand Society. Dr. Bourland was known as much for his care of patients and mentorship of younger doctors as he was for his surgical skills and excellent medical care. He continued caring for patients even in retirement by volunteering at the Church Health Center each week. Bill loved being a surgeon but his joy was his faith and his family. He adored his wife of 49 years, Gayle Smith Bourland, and he was the best husband and father imaginable. He supported his three daughters at every play, award ceremony or athletic event and later doted on his grandchildren, three of whom were named for him. He is survived by his wife Gayle, his daughters and sons-in-law Merrill and Douglas Skipworth, Hallie and Martin Wagner, Audrey and Ross Hurst, and his grandchildren, Anne Wilkes, Virginia, and Henry Skipworth; Walter and William Wagner; and Charlie Hurst. He is



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also survived by brothers and sisters-in-law Don and Paula Bourland, David and Sue Bourland, Jeanine Bourland, and many nephews and nieces, whom he loved. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dr. Robert L. Bourland, Jr. Bill was a member of First Evangelical Church for many years. He adopted Ole Miss as his team at an early age and followed Rebel athletics, particularly football, with great devotion and optimism. He was an enthusiastic chef who enjoyed great food (or any kind of ice cream) and cooking for others. A loyal friend, Bill was generous with his time, talent, and resources. Despite the challenges of Parkinson's Disease in recent years, Bill continued helping those around him and his generosity of spirit has left a significant impact on a broad community. His legacy will live long beyond his lifetime. The family will begin receiving friends at 9:30 am on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at First Evangelical Church prior to a memorial service at 11:00 am at First Evangelical Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Church Health Center, First Evangelical Church Missions Fund, or the charity of the donor's choice



## Tribute Wall

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RA

**Rachel Bresinger Ashkenazi** posted:

I didn't know Dr. Bourland well, but his daughter Audrey was my classmate and friend in high school. They say that we are a reflection of our parents. Audrey is a wonderful, caring person, and I know that she learned through the example set by both her parents. RIP Dr. Bourland. Sending much love to the Bourland's and extended families from Israel.

April 16 at 8:52 AM

KB

**Kim Burton** posted:

I worked with Dr. Bourland for 6 yrs at Memphis Surgery Center. I count it an honor to have been his scrub tech, and learned so much from him. Those were amazing times with Dr. Bourland, Randy, me, Cindy, and Rosemary. We were quite the team. Rest In Peace.

April 12 at 5:24 PM

KM

**Ken Moore** posted:

So sorry to hear of this fine Doctor and colleague passing. I have great memories of him at Campbell Clinic during residency and his endearing smile when I would see him at meetings. He left a great legacy with so many including his family. RIP. You have traveled a successful journey.

April 12 at 2:11 PM

NB

**Nell Brown** posted:

I extend my condolences to the Bourleland Family. I was his patient with a broken wrist in January 1996 and I appreciate the excellent care I received during that time. God bless each of you as his legacy will live on through each of you. Nell Brown

April 12 at 11:47 AM

RH

**Robin Huffman** posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Dr. Bourland's passing. I worked at The Orthopaedic in the 90's and he was so nice to work for and he was a really good doctor. I know he will be missed terribly. The Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. There is no doubt in my mind that he is with Jesus. I will keep your family in my prayers.

April 12 at 9:47 AM



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**Amy Gentry** posted:

Rest in peace. You will be missed by rhe people who were blessed by your gentle presence.  
Prayers for the Bourland family.

April 12 at 8:44 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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