



Dr. Howard T. Akers

NOV 10, 1930 - APR 8, 2025



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Funeral Home & Cemetery

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Dr. Howard T. Akers

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Dr. Howard Thomas "Papo" Akers, 94, passed away peacefully at home on April 8, 2025, in Memphis, Tennessee, the city where he was born on November 10, 1930, and where he built a life defined by devotion— to his family, his faith, his patients, and his principles.

A proud Memphian through and through, Dr. Akers graduated from Tech High School before continuing his education at the University of Memphis. He went on to earn his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis. Driven by a deep sense of purpose and compassion, he dedicated over four decades to practicing Family and Industrial Medicine in Memphis. His patients knew him not only as a brilliant physician but also as a man who truly cared — quick to help others and steadfast in doing what was right.

Before beginning his medical career, Dr. Akers served honorably in the Korean Conflict. His service reflected the same values that would guide him throughout his life: integrity, courage, and commitment.

Howard was married for 61 years to the love of his life, Jane Scott Akers. Together they shared a remarkable journey filled with adventure and unwavering companionship. They traveled the world side by side and created a home that became the heart of their growing family. They made it a goal to take their three girls to all fifty states.

He was a devoted father to three daughters: Pamela Miller (Mark), Susan Martin (Jim), and Amy Matheney (Mike). His legacy continues through his grandchildren — Rhys Wittenberg (Aaron), Ryan Karl (Katie), Brennon Martin (Kamille), Carrigan Martin (Rachel), Conor Martin (Katelyn), Colin Matheney (Kaitlyn), Scott Matheney, Zach Matheney, Amanda Matheney, and Ashton Matheney — and fourteen great-grandchildren who brought him immense joy.

Dr. Akers was preceded in death by his beloved wife Jane; his parents Charles D. Akers and Nellie K. Akers; brothers Charles Akers and Richard Akers; and sisters Ann Cox and Mildred Laster.



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A devout Christian throughout his life, Howard was a longtime member of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church before joining Woodland Presbyterian Church. His faith was evident not only in worship but also in how he lived — leading by example with humility and grace. Family dinners were often marked by one of Howard's famously long blessings— each word heartfelt and sincere.

Known affectionately as "Papo," he cherished time with family above all else. Whether playing games with grandchildren or cheering them on at sporting events, he reveled in their company. He loved watching sports himself — especially when it meant sharing the moment with those he loved.

Howard had an adventurous spirit that took him across continents with Jane at his side. He found peace hiking trails or spending time at Norris Lake. He loved taking the camera with him and documenting every experience. At home, he took meticulous care of his yard — a reflection of the pride he took in everything he did.

He also had a sharp wit and a gift for debate that made every conversation memorable. Friends and family fondly recall countless "Howardisms" — sayings full of wisdom or humor that captured his unique perspective on life. One favorite came from his mother: "If you make a nickel, you have to save a nickel." Another came from working alongside his father in their family's furniture and hardware stores: "If it's not right, it's mine." Others include: "You must walk by faith, not by sight." "It's better to stand alone than go with the crowd."

Dr. Akers will be remembered as distinguished and honorable— a loyal friend, loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, respected physician, faithful servant of God, and truly one-of-a-kind man whose impact will be felt for generations.

A funeral service honoring Dr. Howard Thomas "Papo" Akers will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery located at 5668 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38119. Visitation will begin at 1:30 PM followed by the funeral service at 2:30 PM with graveside services immediately following.

May the memory of DR. Howard Akers bring comfort to all who knew him - and may we continue to live by the example he is so gracefully set.



Events

Dr. Howard T. Akers

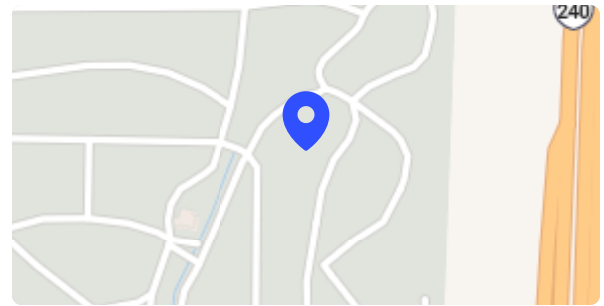
NOV 10, 1930 - APR 8, 2025

Visitation

Saturday, April 12, 2025

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CT

Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119

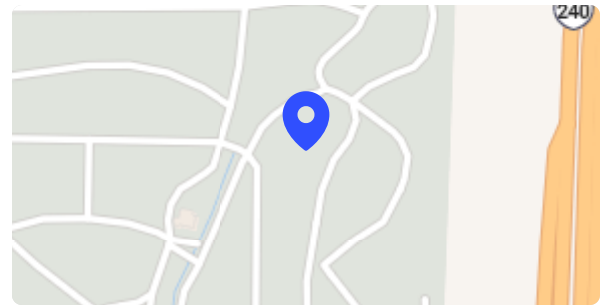


Funeral

Saturday, April 12, 2025

2:30 PM CT

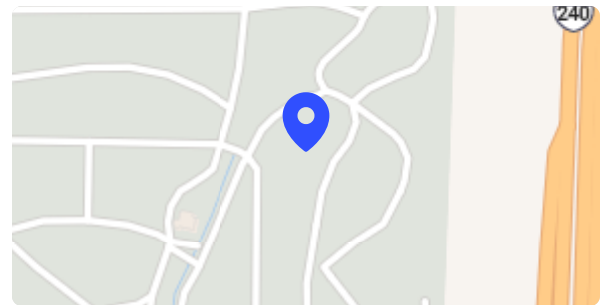
Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119

(901) 445-8475





Memories only last if you share them

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



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