



Dr. Bowdre Lucian Carswell MD

January 18, 1926 - June 13, 2022

BOWDRE LUCIAN CARSWEL, MD
(January 18, 1926 – June 13, 2022)

Dr. Bowdre Lucian Carswell died of natural causes in the early hours of Monday, June 13, 2022 at his apartment in the Vista del Monte retirement complex in Santa Barbara, CA.

Dr. Carswell was born January 18, 1926 in Sardis, Georgia into a family with four older brothers and one younger sister. His father, Alex Carswell, was a Southern Baptist minister, CPA, small-town lawyer and educator, and his mother, Marjorie Norris Carswell, was a homemaker who every day read a page of the Bible and a page in the dictionary.

After graduation from high school in Blakely, GA, Bo – as he was known by family and friends – entered the University of Georgia in 1942. After completing the required pre-med courses, he transferred to the Medical College of Georgia graduating with an M.D. shortly after his 21st birthday. Dr. Carswell served as a Naval officer with the U.S. Air Force at Randolph Field, TX and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina followed by Navy Flight Surgeon School in Pensacola, FL. He was then assigned to the First Marine Air Wing at El Toro, CA and then deployed to Japan and Korea. Returning from the Korean War in 1952, Dr. Carswell began a 4-year surgical residency followed by a 6-month pathology residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI.

In 1957, Dr. Carswell joined the practice of Dr. Bill Sheehan in Santa Barbara, CA. After Dr. Sheehan's retirement, Dr. Bo continued to practice there until he retired in March, 1996 at age 70. During the nearly 40 years that he practiced, Dr. Carswell had one of the busiest surgical offices in the county. According to his nephew, John Carswell, "It was hard to go anywhere in Santa Barbara without running into someone Uncle Bo had operated on."

Dr. Carswell served in many capacities in all of the local hospitals during his long surgical practice and maintained many professional and civic memberships. One of his most cherished honors was to be chosen PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR in 1994 as the first recipient. He was selected by his peers from both St. Francis Hospital and Cottage Hospital.

As a devout Christian, Dr. Carswell supported Youth For Christ, Sea & Summit (now part of YWAM), the Boy Scouts, the Salt Company at Hollywood First Presbyterian Church, Physicians For Life and was an active member of Santa Barbara's First Baptist Church until his death.

One of Bowdre's favorite accomplishments was to have been part of the team (which included his brother Dr. Harold Carswell) that developed the Valle Verde Retirement Community. He was actively involved from the inception in the 1950's until the doors opened in 1965.

Definitely noteworthy is the unusual fact that Dr. Bo had three brothers who also practiced medicine: Dr. Gus Carswell, orthopedic surgeon in Augusta, GA; Dr. John Carswell, anesthesiologist and Dr. Harold ("Bud") Carswell, colorectal surgeon in Santa Barbara. It was not unusual in Santa Barbara for Dr. Bo and Dr. Bud to be doing surgery together while Dr. John administered the anesthetic.

When he wasn't involved with patients – which was rare, Dr. Bo could be found playing bridge, billiards or tennis. He also enjoyed bowling, ping pong and shooting pool.

In 1958, Bowdre Carswell married Betty Jean Boyles whom he met while

doing his surgical residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Ms. Boyles was an R.N. In 1958, she relocated to Santa Barbara and worked at Cottage Hospital and Sansum Clinic. They married on March 26, 1958 at the First Baptist Church. Theirs was a long and loving marriage and they served together in many worthwhile capacities in the Santa Barbara medical and Christian communities until Betty's death in 2017.

Survivors include Bowdre's sister and brother-in-law Marjorie and Jim Brandt of Santa Barbara, brother-in-law Bill Young (Rose) of Youngsville, PA and many nieces and nephews for whom "Uncle Bo" was really a second father throughout their lives.

Enough cannot be said about the extraordinary character of Bowdre Lucian Carswell. He had a selfless, tireless work ethic, was generous, humble, fiercely loyal and always encouraging. Lastly, he was a master jokester and family lore story teller.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 949 Veronica Springs Rd, Santa Barbara, CA.

Donations in Dr. Carswell's memory may be made to St. Francis Foundation, 2323 De La Vina St., Suite 104, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 or to First Baptist Church, 949 Veronica Springs Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **25**. 1:00 PM (PT)

First Baptist Church Santa Barbara
949 Veronica Springs Rd
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *Dr and Betty introduced us to First Baptist Church. We are still members and have come across so many lovely members that go there.*

I worked for Dr Carswell and found it a privilege to work for this man of God. When I told him this, he told me the privilege was his. We will miss you BLC but know our paths will meet again. Rest in His loving arms.

JoAnn and Dennis Schwendtner



joann schwendtner - July 11, 2022 at 09:00 PM

JB

“ *Dr. Bo was the older brother I never had. After high school, when I was working for Sister Georgia in the business office of St. Francis Hospital, she introduced me to Dr. Bo. He soon took me under his wing and trained me to be a medical assistant in the office he shared with Dr. Sheehan and Dr. Harold Carswell. After a few years, when I was restless and wanted to explore a larger world, he encouraged me to get a university education first, which changed the course of my life. Dr. Bo was the kindest, most generous and encouraging person to come into my life, and I'm forever grateful. Dr. Bo did God's work on earth and now he can rest in peace.*

Joanna Pellizzari Berland

Joanna Berland - June 15, 2022 at 08:00 PM

AF

“ *My heart is very sad to hear of his passing. He was the most wonderful surgeon I had ever had. When I was on my death bed 1964 with abcess pancreas at St Francis Hospital, he saved my life. Dr. Carswell may you rest in peace! Angelina Garcia Franco*



Angelina Garcia Franco - June 15, 2022 at 07:25 PM

JL

Dr. Carswell frequently covered for our late father, Dr. Albert Medwid over the 40 years of his oncology surgical practice in Santa Barbara. I remember distinctly on Sunday nights the phone would ring and when I answered there was Dr. Carswell's lovely southern accented voice saying, "hi this is Bo". He was checking in with our dad on his patients. Our father thought highly of Dr. Carswell as a trusted colleague and fellow surgeon. May he RIP.

Jill Medwid-Lewis

Jill Lewis - April 14, 2024 at 01:49 PM