



Dr. H. Keller Jr. - Fairfield

June 18, 1927 - August 24, 2012

Dr. John H. Keller, Jr. Funeral services were held Sunday, August 26 in Fairfield for long-time Fairfield physician Dr. John H. Keller, Jr., 85, who died Friday, August 24 at the hospital in Fairfield. Dr. Keller was born June 18, 1927 in Centerville, the only child of John Henry Keller, Sr. and Lola Floyd Keller. He attended school in Centerville, graduating as salutatorian in 1944. He attended Sam Houston State Teachers College for a year, then joined the U.S. Army in April of 1946. He served in the Adjutant General Corps and was stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia; Fort Oglethorp, Georgia; and Fort Schafter, Hawaii. After he was discharged in May of 1947, he returned to Sam Houston and graduated in August of 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. In September 1949, he entered Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He graduated in June of 1953 and interned at Jeff Davis and Veterans Administration hospitals in Houston. Dr. Keller joined a private practice in Corsicana for a brief time before being invited to take over the Fairfield practice of Dr. John Innis in June of 1955. His office was located on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. In January of 1958, he formed a partnership with medical school classmate Dr. Joe D. Crossno. The association was named Fairfield Clinic, and was officially housed first in a new clinic built on the east side of the square in 1965. A second, larger clinic was built in 1982 and was located on West Commerce. Dr. Keller continued to practice with Dr. Crossno until Crossno's death in 2000. The West Commerce clinic building was still in use as a medical facility until the day of Dr. Keller's

death, when the current physician group moved into a new building a few hundred yards east. Over the years, Dr. Keller had served as chief of staff at the Fairfield hospital several times and had served on the American Board of Family Physicians. In addition, he was a member of the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Freestone County Medical Association. He was an elected board member of the Fairfield Hospital District, and was instrumental in establishing a hospital taxing district in Freestone County. He fought to prevent the closing of Fairfield Memorial Hospital in the 1990s, and later served on the East Texas Medical Center - Fairfield board of directors. A lifelong Methodist, he was a member of First United Methodist Church in Fairfield, where he was sound technician during worship services for many years. He also served on the building committee and in many other capacities. His volunteer efforts extended internationally as well. He assisted in the establishment of a clinic in Haiti in conjunction with FUMC Fairfield. He was especially proud and supportive of Sam Houston State University, recommending to numerous area students that they consider attending SHSU, and initiating and contributing to several alumni and university special projects. He received the Sam Houston State University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996. On three occasions, he served as Physician of the Day for the Texas Legislature. In 2009, after practicing medicine in Fairfield for more than 50 years, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. He had also previously been named Citizen of the Year by the organization. In 2011, he received the Rural Health Trail Blazer Award, presented by the Texas Rural Health Forum, which honored him for giving lifelong professional and personal attention to improving the lives of rural citizens. Most recently, he was awarded the Grand Lodge of Texas Community Builder Award, which recognizes outstanding non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through service to their community, church and to humanity. The award is presented to an individual who has never been initiated into Masonry, but has

followed the same precepts, ideals and standards established for Masonic behavior. Services were conducted at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Officiating were Dr. Keller's nephew, Rev. James Mack Strange, pastor of Trinity Church, a campus of Brentwood United Methodist Church in Spring Hill, Tennessee; and Fairfield FUMC pastor Rev. Paul Kethley. Burial follow at Fairfield Cemetery. Pallbearers were O.B. Utley III, Don Awalt, Jeff Hale, Dr. Brent Moore, Sam Bill Bournias, Robert McAdams, Steve James and Gary Toothman. Honorary pallbearers were O.B. Utley, Jr., Dr. Harold Moore, and Harry Gresham. Special Music was provided by soloist Jamie Filis, who sang "In the Garden", and the congregation sang "Victory in Jesus." Dr. Keller is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret Elizabeth (Betsy) Strange Keller; two daughters and sons-in-law, Susan Keller Myers and husband Charles, and Carolyn Keller Newberry and husband Scott; Grandsons Jordan Keller Myers, James Scott (J) Newberry III and James Andrew Myers, all of Fairfield; and granddaughter Audra Myers Knowles of Waco. The family also gives special recognition to Miss Pat Robertson, the Fairfield Hospital District Board, the Fairfield EMS Board and Staff, Dr. David Latham, and Dr. J. Michael Orms.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. H. Keller Jr. - Fairfield*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *To the Keller Family I just wanted to say this great man helped in my life since birth. Dr. Keller gave my daughter, Tasha Jackson Tacker Alston, her first job & always told her she could come back to the clinic. He was very proud when she became an RN instead of the medical lab tech. There is a crown in heaven for Dr. Keller & all the good he did for people because he cared. My dad & uncle grew up near Centerville & were friends with your dad since childhood days. My dad is gone now & I called my uncle in another state to tell him about JH as they called him. My prayers are with you all. I will always remember the stories of the girls growing up & the grandchildren.*

Margaret Ann Smith Jackson - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was sad to hear of Dr. Keller's passing. He was a fine physician and friend to so many of his patients. I had the pleasure of working "with" him on my travels to Fairfield Clinic for 13 years and many of his patients are still my patients.*

Fairfield was richer for his presence and he will be greatly missed.

My blessings and prayers to family, friends, co-workers (especially "Miss Pat") and patients, Vicki

Vicki Sims, BC-HIS - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I know that in time God will ease the pain in our hearts of the one's who knew what a great man Dr. Keller truly was. There are so many favorite memories I have of him, I don't know if I can pick just one, but the one that stands out the most is, I became so used to seeing him sitting behind the desk in his chair at the hospital. Every evening when I would come to work, he would always say, "Well, hello Ms. Pierce, I can go home now knowing the A-team is working tonight." Shortly after always speaking to me he would get up to go home. I had the honor of being his nurse in his final days. He taught me so many things. It was an honor to call him my friend. My sympathy to the family. God bless us all. He was the last of his kind.

Lana Little Pierce - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Dr. Keller was a very good Doctor did tremendous work for all of Freestone County. I can still vision him walking the halls of the Hospital and visiting one and all. He was very caring and a good and decent man. He will be sorely missed in this community. Our Condolences to his family. Thank You Dr. Keller for touching our lves.

Grover and Elizabeth Melvin - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Not only have I been a patient of Doctor Keller, I have taught his grandchildren, and attended church with him and his family. My family and I send prayers for the family, friends and community as they deal with the loss of a great man. My parents, Carl and June Alexander, also patients, send thoughts and prayers during this sorrowful time. God bless you all.*

Terri Alexander Davis Higdon - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ *HE WILL SURELY BE MISSED.
HE TAUGHT ME A LOT AND I WAS THANKFUL FOR ALL HIS
HELP.*

VICKI MCFERRIN - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Mrs. Betsy and family,*

We are very sorry for your loss. Dr. Keller was a fine man and we will miss him greatly.

Adam and Pam Chavers - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *So much respect. So much admiration. So much appreciation.*

Linda Sanford - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dr. Keller was one of the smartest, yet down to earth men I have ever had the privilage to know. I have worked around alot of mn that carry the prefix of Dr. to thier name but Dr. Keller is that last real doctor around. I will miss his friendship and his knowledge that he has always passed down to every medical person he ever came into contact with. Thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and heven just became a better place.

Bill Brown - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I am sorry for your loss, he was a great man and good friend. He delivered my husband and then helped name our first born son. They are few doctors left in our community with the true care of the patient not the almighty dollar or insurance paying the bill. We will be praying for your family through this rough time. Love the Massey's Kim, John Wayne and Lori

Kim Massey - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our prayers are with all of you during this time. Dr Keller was an awesome individual and will be missed by all. Betsy, Susan, Charles, Carolyn, Scott, Jordan, Andrew, and Jay, Thank you for sharing such an awesome man with your community.

Dennis & Sharon Farmer - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Our community has lost a great leader and person in Dr. Keller. But,he heard the words of the Lord when he said "Well done, my good and faithful servant". He was obedient to God. We will miss him, but we know that he is in a better place. He's making his ROUNDS IN HEAVEN.

Mashelle Gabriel-Manning - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Praying for you during this difficult time.

debbie jumper - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ We knew we had a friend and doctor when we first began going to him. He never refused to see one of us and would spend time talking. Like Hallmark-He cared enough to do (send) his very best. We will miss him.

Stanley and Rosie Robinson - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

laura blankenship - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Throughout the time that I knew Dr. Keller, he was always an amazing model of compassion and commitment in terms of the care that he provided his patients. He was always a wise sage to whom other medical professionals could turn for advise. The loss of Dr. John Keller will be a profound one both to the medical community as well as the community at large. May God bless his family richly during this time of loss.

Robert Cole, MD - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Dr.Keller you will be greatly missed by so many people. You were a great inspiration to me and always so kind. Our community lost an icon & an angel in disguise as a doctor, rest now your work is done. Prayers of peace for the family.

Sandy Ashford - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Please know we are all praying for The Keller Family during your time of sorrow. Dr. Keller has been apart of our family for many years. MAy God Bless you all and know Dr Keller is in a better place with no pain nor suffering.

*The Dale Crane Family of Elkhart, Tx
but raised in Fairfield, Texas*

Linda Crane Claborn - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Dr. Keller was an amazing person who touched my heart and my life in so many ways. I will miss our talks but, I will never ever forget you!! I know your in a better place now I will always be thankful for you.

Dana Logan - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Words cannot express the dedication Dr. Keller showed for his patient and families. Thoughts and prayers for the family at this time.

Rudolph, Oma Pate & Marilyn Pate

Marilyn Pate - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dr. H. Keller Jr. - Fairfield

Janice & David Daniel - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Your family is in our prayers during this time.

Sharon Wood - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Dr. Keller was my doctor for as long as I can remember. He was always patient and would sit and talk and listen to your concerns. He was my boys doctor, also, and they didn't mind going to see him, because they knew he would be caring with them. I'm glad I moved back home and got to see him on a regular basis while he was still practicing. He will be greatly missed.

Patti Ballard - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ dr keller will be missed
he was the best dr in this area
he was kind ,if you needed him ,he would
come to your house to help
you don;t see any dr with that type of
concern for the other person like he had
we will miss you DR KELLER

glenn mcginn - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Dr. Keller was a great mentor to me. He challenged me and helped me grow as a healthcare provider and person. I always enjoyed working with him and picking his brain. He was a wonderful doctor, teacher, and friend. My prayers are with Mrs. Keller and the rest of the family that God may comfort you.

Kim Birtcher - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *My greatest sympathy to the Keller family. Dr. Keller was a terrific man who spent his life giving to others of himself through his profession.*

I met Dr. Keller through our dear friend Harold Moore almost 20 years ago.

He will forever be in my thoughts for the tremendous respect I have for a man that spent a lifetime making a difference in other peoples lives.

Rest in Peace. God Bless you, your memory and your family.

*With greatest sincerity,
Anita Bradley*

Anita Bradley - August 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM