



Dr. Philip Z. Israel

January 13, 1936 - July 26, 2019

Philip Z. Israel, beloved Surgical Oncologist and source of strength and comfort to the tens of thousands of breast cancer patients he cared for, passed away Friday, July 26, 2019 at the age of 83.

Born in 1936 in the tiny southern town of Edison, Georgia, he graduated from high school with a class of 12 students. From childhood, Dr. Israel knew with certainty that he wanted to be a doctor. A graduate of Emory University Medical School, Dr. Israel also did his surgical residency there. He served as a Captain in the US Air Force in Fort Worth, Texas in 1966-68.

A pioneer in the development of oncologic breast surgery as a specialty, Dr. Israel trained thousands of surgeons to develop skill in ultrasound and stereotactic imagining so that they could more comprehensively care for their patients. As a skilled surgeon, his aim was always to treat his patients kindly, gently and appropriately - never unnecessarily over treating them. He authored a number of scholarly research studies on breast cancer published in prominent medical journals. He was proud to have been one of the founding members and the first Chairman of the Board of the American Society of Breast Surgeons in 1990.

Dr. Israel had a great love of Colorado and the landscape of the American west. He was a firm believer that a gentleman's word and handshake meant everything. To those who knew him, he was a true southern gentleman and the salt of the earth. To his patients, who cared deeply for him, his impact on their lives will continue to ripple on through time. He will be remembered fondly by all whose lives he touched as a great and exceptional man.

Dr. Israel was preceded in death by his beloved son, David Israel; parents, William and Dorothy Baer Israel and nephew, Jared Zane Israel. He is survived by his wife, Cyndi; brother, Jack (Diane) of Sandy Springs, former wife, Faye; daughter, Terri Israel of Marietta; son, Scott Israel (Laura); and cherished grandchildren, Zach and Maddie Israel

of Chattanooga; step grandchildren, Madison and Toby Thurwanger; step children, Kimberly and Kenny Thurwanger.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home, Historic Marietta Chapel. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Breezy Meadow Horse Rescue, 390 Narrow Way Church Circle, Dallas, GA 30132 or the animal rescue organization of your choice. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Thursday.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 06:00PM - 07:00PM

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Mayes Ward-Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel
180 Church Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

AUG **Celebration of Life** 07:00PM

1

Mayes Ward-Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel
180 Church Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

Comments



“ The passing of a great man. Always a gentleman, he quietly became more determined and resourceful as he dealt with adversity. A role model and mentor for us all.

Barbara S Schwartzberg - November 12, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ This was a class person, exceptional physician and surgeon. I am saddened by his passing, and I know heaven has received a wonderful doctor. To Cyndi, Children, former wife Faye, brother and in-laws, please accept my sincere sympathy! God Bless his soul
Dr James M Abney, Jr.



jim Abney - September 28, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ Thank you Dr. Israel for all you have done for me. I first met Dr. Israel in 1988 when I needed help after a mammogram. Then he truly saved my life in 2015 when he did breast cancer surgery. The Breast Center continues to care for me. I always respected him, trusted him and enjoyed his loving attitude.
Peace to his family. I'm sure they all gave up time with him so he could care for patients like me. Thank you.

Marge Ramirez - August 30, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ It saddens me to hear of the passing of the greatest breast surgeon and doctor I have ever known. His compassion, knowledge and caregiving cannot be compared to anyone. When I moved to Florida for years, I returned to him every six months for checkup until he cleared me. I trusted no one else. He will never be forgotten by the many he attended, I'm sure he has a place forever in our hearts.

Winnona Rich - August 19, 2019 at 08:56 AM



“ So sad to hear about Dr. Isreal . Years ago he was teaching stereotactic core biopsies and ultrasound guided core biopsy courses. He was actually the one that I learned the procedures from in the late 1990s. After that I had the pleasure of knowing him and seeing him at different meetings. He was an amazing man and a huge asset to the development of breast surgery over the last many decades. He will surely be missed.

Shenin Sachedina - August 17, 2019 at 08:15 PM



“ Phil Israel was indeed a legend. I first met him during one of the ultrasound courses he taught in the mid-90's. His work with the American Society of Breast Surgeons was legendary. He was a great friend and superb mentor. His work has benefitted thousands of women directly and through the education he provided to other breast surgeons, that number probably soars into the millions. It is sad to realize that Dr. Phil Israel is longer in this world.

My condolences to his family and friends.

Shawna C. Willey, MD

Shawna Willey - August 04, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of Dr Israel's passing. Dr Israel was such a compassionate doctor with a very sweet bedside manner.

I will truly miss receiving care from him at his Marietta location and sharing a hug and some laughs.

My deepest condolences to his family.

Sabrina Moore - August 03, 2019 at 04:14 PM



“ 44 years ago when we first came to practice in Marietta, Phil was the first physician to invite us to his home. We became close friends; operating together, playing golf and even playing tennis as partners when ALTA was in its infancy. I will miss our long talks regarding medical politics, philosophy of medical practice and the future of medicine. Rest In Peace my friend, you earned!

Ron Roper

Ron Roper - August 01, 2019 at 05:45 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - August 01, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ Patricia Gibbons lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel

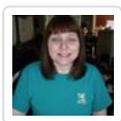


Patricia Gibbons - August 01, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ Such a blessing to know Dr.Phil even though briefly. In December I met Dr. Phil as I assumed residency at Overture. At the residence Christmas Dinner I sat at Dr. Phil's & Cyndis table. Through brief I had the opportunity to glimpse Dr Phil's life as a reknowned. pioneer in the treatment & diagnosis of breast cancer. I also tasted his devotion to friends and family as Cyndi shared. What a priveledge to know this outstanding man with a special gift from God. His kindness to everyone was extended personally to me as he assisted me when I had to walk with a walker. Dr. Phil had good days & not so good days. Despite the fluation of his health he was ever present to chat & lend a helping hand to all residents. We will truly miss him at Overture. Its a blessing to know with confidence he is in the hands of his creator, the giver of his extradinaey gift. For this we rejoice.

Lavilla Walker - August 01, 2019 at 12:38 AM



“ Was diagnosed with Breast Cancer at the age of 44. I had a bad experience with a previous doctor and was told they would ask Dr. Israel if he would be willing to take over my care. He was filled with patients and normally did not take new ones without a referral. He did not hesitate and told them to set the appointment. The most caring and considerate care I could have ever received. He did my surgery and recommended my therapy to make sure that the Cancer was gone. I am now 5 years Cancer free and owe my thanks to him for my life. Always a smile and knew exactly what to say to cheer me up when the news was not the best! I am really going to

miss his smiling face when I visit his office for my exams. Praying for his family and I hope that you feel comfort in knowing all the wonderful things he accomplished in his life and how much he made a difference in the lives of others. God bless all of you!

Love always,
Sherry Warlick

Sherry Warlick - July 31, 2019 at 07:35 PM



“ It will have been 21 years ago this August at the young age of 33 that Dr. Israel gave us the devastating news that I had breast cancer. One of his first words to us after explaining it all was "Well, what would you like me to do?" My husband and I looked at each other tearfully and thought "You're the doctor. You tell us". Dr. Israel at first meeting appeared to be a grumpy, old fashioned doctor and we wondered if we were in the right place. We would soon find out otherwise. This doctor had a heart of gold and was just a giant "teddy bear". He knew his stuff and was an expert in his field. He did try to discourage us from looking on the internet or doing any research at that time as he feared some stuff out there would scare us. His own sweet nurse even sneaked in past him a resourceful breast cancer book that she gave me. Lol. He did two of my breast surgeries over the years before saying in 2011 that they were "unfaithful" and "needed to go" and did my double mastectomy. There is no other person more deserving of a "Celebration of Life" than Dr. Israel. He was an outstanding, caring doctor and truly saved my life more than once. I will truly miss this "teddy bear" and my heart goes out to his personal family and his office family. Much love to him. "His work here is done and now it's time for him to rest."

Cheryl and Cliff Fisher

Cheryl Fisher - July 31, 2019 at 07:35 PM



“ I began seeing Dr. Israel in 2004. He was the most caring and kind person I've ever met. He really cared about my health. When he discovered my breast cancer in 2015, he gave me confidence I was in good hands. His plan of action was perfect and every chance I got, I thanked him for saving my life. I will miss seeing him.

My thoughts are with his family.

Anita Loftin

Anita Loftin - July 31, 2019 at 07:03 PM



“ I became a patient of Dr Isreal in 1988 at the young age of 35. He was the most kind and caring person I know. Even though I moved to MS in 2006 he has remained my Dr. Returning every year for checkups. I have trusted him with my life for 31 years. I will miss him so.
Dee Boreing

Dee Boreing - July 31, 2019 at 09:36 AM



“ I have been a patient of Dr. Isreal's for approximately 12 years. He was a very kind and gentle man. I felt very safe while under his care. And, it really was "care". He made me feel like I was his most important patient. I'm sure he did that with every single patient. I will miss seeing him. My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family and his staff.

Julie Young - July 31, 2019 at 09:23 AM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 31, 2019 at 09:09 AM



“ I am an 18 year breast cancer survivor thanks to Dr Israel. He has taken good care of me for all these years. A truly gifted surgeon but also such a compassionate, caring person. My condolences to his loved ones.

Peggy Withrow - July 30, 2019 at 11:29 PM



“ I have been a patient of Dr. Israel for thirty years. Dr. Israel will always have a Special Place in my Heart. Dr. Israel discovered my breast cancer and saved my life. I am so very sad to hear of his passing. I send my love to his Very Special Staff at the Breast Center and to his family.
Love,
Jill Koski

Jill Koski - July 30, 2019 at 04:00 PM



“ 54 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 30, 2019 at 03:28 PM



“ One of the most intelligent and caring doctors I have ever known. It has been an honor to say I knew him. Many women will benefit from his programs in health care. He served us all well.

Lorene Pitman - July 30, 2019 at 03:16 PM



“ Dr. Isreal was a wonderful man and doctor. I am so sad to hear of his passing. He was so kind. As a doctor, he took care of me for years. I will truly miss him. My condolences to his family and coworkers. May God surround you with peace and strength during this difficult time.

Margie Moore Butler

Margaret Butler - July 30, 2019 at 11:05 AM



“ Sandy Dodgen lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Sandy Dodgen - July 30, 2019 at 10:03 AM



“ I am so sad to hear of Dr. Israel's passing. Prayers and condolences to all of his loved ones. When I had to have my first of many biopsies, my mom said I HAD to see Dr. Israel. She said, "He's the best!", and she was right. He truly was not only a wonderful physician, but a wonderful human being.

Rhonda Tew - July 30, 2019 at 12:58 AM



“ Dawn lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Dawn - July 29, 2019 at 09:33 PM



“ Dr. Israel has been my doctor for many years and it is so sad to hear of his passing. He was always so kind, caring and always was happy to teach and answer any questions. He was an amazing doctor and saved so many lives with his expertise. It will be so sad to go to my next appointment at the Breast Center, knowing he is no longer there. I feel blessed to have had him for my doctor.

My heart felt thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and friends and co-workers.

Dawn Lokey

Dawn - July 29, 2019 at 09:30 PM



“ Patty Terrell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Patty Terrell - July 29, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ Had my yearly visit to the Breast Center this morning and heard the sad news. I will never forget how kind and caring he was with me when I was diagnosed. Such a smart man! My condolences to his family and to his office family. He will be missed!

Sue Ambrose - July 29, 2019 at 06:53 PM



“ Margaret Kenner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



margaret kenner - July 29, 2019 at 04:37 PM



“ So sorry for the family and all his friends/patients. I love Dr. Israel he was a wonderful Dr. so dedicated and caring for his patients. Dr. Israel is the only breast doctor I have ever seen. Many years ! A very sweet man, I just hugged his neck 2 months ago. Loved by all his patients. Prayers going up with love. Margaret

margaret kenner - July 29, 2019 at 05:08 PM



“ Jack ,please call me if you can-229 347 0739

James - August 01, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. No words to know to say. Just love you all and praying that you will receive comfort from your family, friends, loved ones. What a gentle and kind man just like his brother, Jack. Thankful that he helped so many as a Doctor. Our hearts are broken. Terry and Johnnie



Terry and Johnnie Clark - July 29, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ Marty Mccurley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Marty Mccurley - July 29, 2019 at 04:02 PM



“ Dr. Israel was a wonderful doctor; he was caring, patient, and above all, dedicated! He will be missed by many. I still appreciate the wonderful care he took of me YEARS ago.

Rebecca Smailes - July 29, 2019 at 02:32 PM



“ Fran And Mike Karczewski lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Fran and Mike Karczewski - July 29, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ I worked for Dr. Isreal for a few year.. He was a beautiful person a very hard working doctor and a very sweet man I know he'll be missed by many and lam very sad to hear of his passing.

Debora D8ax - July 29, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ Janet Young lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Janet young - July 29, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ My husband and I are devastated to hear this news.
Dr Israel saved my life also.
He was kind, compassionate and honest throughout my two year ordeal.
Never has a surgeon recommended a bottle of red wine as a pre surgery calming process as did Dr Israel
May he rest in eternal peace knowing how loved and wonderful he was.
Thank you Dr Israel for my life.

Sharon & Peter Dine

sharon dine - July 29, 2019 at 09:39 AM



“ Dianne Farmer a patient whom was treated and surgery is well today because of DR ISREALs expertise and knowledge of breast procedures and checkups could never thank him enough for extending life as normal as can be loved him and will miss him thank you DOCTOR

Dianne Farmer - July 29, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ Dr. Israel and my father both grew up in the tiny town of Edison, GA and shared many wonderful memories together along with Dr. Israel's brother, Jack. I have been a patient of Dr. Israel's for 15 years and will certainly miss his kind eyes and wonderful bedside manner. He was truly one of a kind. RIP, Dr. Israel!

Lisa Hattaway

Lisa Hattaway - July 29, 2019 at 08:56 AM



“ God Bless You! I am one of so many women he helped save (my life). He was always so kind and gentle. He made me feel like it was going to be ok, and it was. He will be so missed. God bless his family and those sweet women that worked for him.

Tamara Jones - July 29, 2019 at 08:21 AM



“ Lee and I are so sad to hear this news. We only new Dr Phil for about a year but he made us feel like we had been friends for a lifetime. We send our prayers to his family. May you feel GOD'S loving arms wrapped around you and holding you tight with comfort and love.
Lee and Cheryl Wagner

Cheryl Wagner - July 29, 2019 at 08:16 AM



“ I'm a 19 year survivor of breast cancer . Thanks to God and Dr. Israel , I will forever be Thankful. RIP Dr. Israel you were one of a kind.
Katherine Smith Dallas, Ga



Katherine Smith - July 29, 2019 at 08:02 AM



“ Lynn Ballard Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Dr. Philip Z. Israel



Lynn Ballard Cunningham - July 29, 2019 at 07:49 AM



“ Dear Jack,
I am praying for you and yours a special time of God's Peace in knowing that he is His son.
And a time of Grace in knowing He controls all things.
And that His Mercy abounds.
When and if you will, give me a call. I am the guardian of Anne, who suffers with dementia.

229 347 0730
2338 Winchester Rd
Albany, Ga 31721



James Hattaway - July 29, 2019 at 06:47 AM



“ Dr Israel has been my Dr for 24 years. He was always always kind, compassionate, and always matter of fact! I remember saying to him, after a scare “I don't need to worry anymore,” and he replied, “as long as you have beasts we will need to worry.” I will miss him. Rest In Peace Dr Israel!

christina Evans - July 28, 2019 at 09:01 PM



“ I trusted him with my life and he saved it. He was a wonderful doctor and person. He will be missed.

Mechelle Hall - July 28, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ Dr. Phil Israel is a great man and colleague. I have the utmost professional respect for him. He was always kind, empathetic and sincere to his colleagues and patients. I was always happy to see him and take great pride in helping his patients. He will be missed, but never forgotten. His legacy and impact he had on others will surely endure.

Jay P. Patel - July 28, 2019 at 07:43 PM



“ I am so sad of this news, he was my doctor and I adored him. He always made me feel at ease. He had the best bed side manners. And I trusted him with my life. Rest in peace Dr. Israel. Thank you for the great service and care all these years. You will definitely be missed.

Tina Walker - July 28, 2019 at 06:50 PM