



Roland T. Smoot

February 12, 1927 - January 25, 2006

ROLAND THOMAS SMOOT, M.D., born February 12, 1927, was the only son of the late James and Beatrice Smoot. He was a native of Washington, DC and a product of the DC public school system. In June of 1944, Dr. Smoot began his pre-med studies at Howard University. He was drafted into the Army in September 1945, and was honorably discharged in December 1946. In January of 1947, he resumed his studies at Howard University and graduated in June 1948, cum laude, with a B.S. Degree and received his M.D. Degree from Howard University School of Medicine in June 1952. Dr. Smoot's training in internal medicine began at the K. B. Reynolds Memorial Hospital in Winston Salem, NC, and was completed at the V.A. Hospital in Tuskegee, AL. Following his residency, he became a member of the medical staff of the Tuskegee V.A. Hospital for the next four years.. He was married to Minnie Richardson on June 5, 1955, and from this union four sons were born. In July of 1960, Dr. Smoot and his family moved to Baltimore, MD where he became employed as a part time House Physician at Provident Hospital. In 1961, he began his private practice and worked as a part time staff member at the Loch Raven V.A. Hospital in Baltimore. In 1962, he became Chief of Medicine at Provident Hospital and remained in that office for ten years. In 1967, Dr. Smoot contributed to the establishment of an Alcoholic Detoxification Inpatient Unit at Provident Hospital. This unit was the first of its kind in any community hospital in the country. In the early part of 1963, Dr. Smoot became a member of The Johns Hopkins Hospital outpatient staff. In 1966, he became an

Attending Staff Physician at The Johns Hopkins Hospital with inpatient privileges, and was, appointed as an instructor in the Department of Medicine. Significantly, Dr. Smoot was the first African American doctor to have inpatient privileges at Hopkins Hospital. He continued his affiliation with The Johns Hopkins Hospital, becoming an Assistant Professor in Medicine in 1974, a position he remained in until June 30, 2004. He served as Student Affairs Advisor in the Dean's Office of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine from 1973 to 1978 and as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs from 1978 until 2004. Johns Hopkins School of Medicine honored Dr. Smoot for his dedication to the institution by presenting him with an academic chair upon his retirement in June 2004. Realizing that the Black medical students both at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland medical schools felt isolated and needed support and encouragement from the community, in 1968, Dr. Smoot and his wife Minnie, formerly a registered nurse, began hosting an annual affair in their home for the Black medical students, house staff of the community hospitals, and the Tuskegee Institute Nursing Students who were on a one year affiliation at the Baltimore City Hospital. All of the practicing physicians of the area were invited to meet and greet the students and young physicians. This affair was so successful over the first three years, the Smoots were asked by the leadership of the Black Dental, Pharmacy, Medical Societies and the Chi Delta Mu Fraternity (Iota Chapter) to include the Black Dental and Pharmacy students from the University of Maryland and these organizations became financial sponsors of the affair. This affair was so successful that by 1995, as many as 800 invitations were distributed. In June of 1963, Dr. Smoot was certified as a specialist in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians and has served as President of Maryland Thoracic Society, Baltimore City Medical Society, Baltimore City Medical Foundation and the Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland. He also served as a Delegate to the American Medical Association for eleven years, Member of Board of Directors of American Medical Political

Action Committee and Chairman, Minority Affairs Section of the Thirteen Medical Schools Consortium. He served as a Commissioner, Health Service Cost Review Commission and a Member of the Board of Directors, Maryland Blue Shield, Inc. Dr. Smoot was also an active member of the following organizations: Board of Visitors of Bowie State College and Board of Directors, Health and Welfare Council of the State of Maryland, Lois Young Thomas Scholarship Guild for Minority Medical Students and the Advisory Committee on Achievement of African Americans in Medicine at the University of Maryland, and the Gamma Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Dr. Smoot has received many awards including, The Distinguished Internist of the Year Award by the Maryland Society of Internal Medicine in 1991 and The Distinguished Service Award from the Howard University Medical School Alumnae Association in 1998. After leaving his private practice in 1991, his primary interest and energies had been directed toward continuing his duties in the Dean's office, pursuing his interest in Cancer Research and spending quality time with his wife and family. Dr. Smoot is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Minnie Richardson Smoot; his four sons, Ronald Harvey Smoot, Dr. Duane Thomas Smoot, Gregory Walter Smoot, and James Henry Smoot; his daughters-in-law, Renee Perkins Smoot, J. Patricia Wilson Smoot, Esq., and Delzora Barnard Smoot; his five grandchildren, Jennifer, Lauren, Christopher, Nicole and Thomas Smoot; his two aunts, Annie L. Ross and Mary C. Wooden; his mother-in-law, Abbie J. McClain; as well as a host of other family and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Roland T. Smoot*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Mrs. Minnie Smoot and family, Please accept our condolences at the loss of Dr. Smoot. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Sincerely, Jean Range and son Michael Range##imported-begin##jean Range##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Dear Mrs. Smoot and Family, You have my deepest sympathy. The minority medical students at the U of MD School of Medicine and myself have enjoyed your and Dr. Smoot's support for many years. He will be remembered forever for his significant contributions to our efforts to recruit and retain minority medical students. I have had a personal relationship in the past with Dr. Smoot as both a patient and someone whom he guided in my work with students at Maryland. We had lots of fun at the student receptions over the years at Provident/Liberty Medical Center. Our prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Hermione M. Hicks##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *We pray that the Lord will give you strength and comfort at this time. We have fond memories of Dr. Smoot. We know that you will miss him and so shall we.##imported-begin##Julie & Gregory Ramsey##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To Minnie and theFamily. You have our Heart Felt Sympathies. God Bless you all.##imported-begin##Willie & Patsie Williams##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *A Tribute to Roland T. Smoot, M.D. Good afternoon. My name is as it is written in the program, Walter Malloy, and I am a cardiologist. Mrs. Ann Emery, one of Mrs. Smoot’s friends, has told me I must limit my remarks to three minutes. Mrs. Emery, I have timed my remarks and they are much less than three minutes. My watch will be the measuring device. And my watch is correct at least twice every twenty-four hours. Let me take off this watch and place it face down for the time being. All of you who knew Dr. Smoot knew he did things his way. Since I was a student of Dr. Smoot, I have to do this my way. In addition, for some decades, whenever I think of all Dr. Smoot did for me or discussed what he did, I become emotional and cry. And that occurred while he was alive. Now that he has died, you know I will cry today. This will be the most difficult presentation of my career. I was one of Dr. Smoot’s “boys.” In a few minutes, you will understand what that means. Another of his “boys” is Ronald George Banks of Cambridge, Maryland. Dr. Banks is a brilliant physician, who is board certified in internal medicine, in surgery, and in occupational medicine. Dr. Banks made a career of the United States Public Health Service, and he is responsible for the public health of the United States and its possessions from Louisiana west to the coast of Japan. Banks could not be here today. He said he was too tired and had too many job related responsibilities. But he asked me to express to the Smoot family and once again to Mrs. Smoot his condolences. I tried everything I could to convince him to come, including offering to pay his way. Banks said money was not the problem. He just had too much to do and could not come. Some of what you are about to hear came from Banks; the rest came from me. Some weeks ago, I had to write an essay to accompany an application to pursue something else that interests me. The essay begins: “The beginning of my sunset causes me to conclude I should procrastinate no more. If I do not hurry, my night will catch me with tasks not completed. And I believe I have not done enough. I continue to believe I should do more.” I believe I must do more. Why do I believe that? Because I am a student of Roland T. Smoot. He taught me. We all came here to mourn Dr. Smoot. We are all heart broken and miss him. Some are angry because he left us.*

Some are so used to his presence and his influence we can't perceive of living without him. Yes, Roland, you left us. But we understand. I came here to say, in addition. "Thank you." Dr. Smoot did the best he could. He tried to make the world a better place. And he did. He tried to make people well. And he did. He tried to stamp out disease. And he did. He tried to save lives. And he did. My father was a patient of his many years ago. My father is still alive and now 98 years old because he followed Dr. Smoot's advice. Dr. Smoot did the best he could. How good was his best? His best was head and shoulders above his peers. And above everyone else I have ever known or heard of. His best was better than the rest. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said the night before he died he hoped after he was gone people would say about him, "He tried to help somebody." Dr. Roland T. Smoot helped thousands of patients and hundreds of students of the health professions. I saw first hand him help hundreds of patients. I always wondered how he had the energy to keep going. When I was a medical student, I used to follow him on the wards and to his office. I remember well watching him treat his patients in his office late into night. Often, I would fall asleep in a chair over in a corner as he went on and on, seeing every patient that needed to be seen. Then, when he finished in the office and awakened me, we would go to Provident Hospital, and he would see more patients there. I do not know how he did it. Where did he get the energy? I could not stay awake. Hundreds of students in

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“ My deepest sympathy to the family. Millicent (Lisa) Few Duke University 1980##imported-begin##Millicent Few (Lisa)##imported-end##

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“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son Jesus Christ have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

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