



Dr. James Thomas Rule Jr.

January 4, 1934 - May 9, 2013

Dr. James Thomas Rule, Jr., beloved husband of Joanne Rule; beloved father of Timothy C. Rule and Cecile F. Rule.

Dr. Rule was born in Woodberry, NJ, and grew up in Paulsboro, NJ. He completed his Bachelor's degree and later his Doctorate in Dental Sciences from Temple University. He completed his residency at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia. He went on to complete a degree in Anatomy at the University of Chicago, and, following that, a two-year residency in Pedodontics at La Rabida Children's Hospital in Chicago, where he met his wife, Joanne.

Dr. Rule went into teaching rather than practice, and was a profound inspiration for many students through his distinguished career. He taught Pediatric Dentistry at the Oregon College of Health Sciences from 1960 – 1967; at Ohio State University from 1967 – 1972; and at the University of Connecticut Health Center from 1972 – 1978, where he developed a curriculum in Pedodontics and helped establish that discipline as a Department at the University. He then served as Chairman of Pediatric Dentistry at University of Maryland College of Dental Surgery from 1978 through 1999.

Throughout his career and indeed his lifetime, Dr. Rule was always concerned

with helping those of lesser means and ensuring both personal and professional integrity. He worked to ensure that practicing dentists in Maryland accept pediatric Medicaid patients. Both during his career and in retirement, he collaborated with Maryland, other Universities, and the private sector to ensure that underserved populations would receive dental care during and after the course of clinical studies and trials, including those in the United States and abroad, most recently in Guatemala. This ongoing work provided dental care to children who otherwise would have had none.

Dr. Rule's volunteer work included two trips to the Marshall Islands, to provide free dental care to residents displaced by nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific. He used his sabbatical time to take courses in medical ethics, and worked to establish Dental Ethics as a discipline and to integrate it fully within dentistry as a whole. He has co-authored numerous papers and two books on the subject of Dental Ethics. Dr. Rule co-edited the Dental Ethics Section in the Journal of the American College of Dentists, and was Senior Visiting Fellow at Creighton University's Center for Health Policy and Ethics in 2003. Thanks to Dr. Rule's work, the University Of Maryland College Of Dental Surgery has established a Code of Dental Ethics that is a fundamental component in the overall curriculum.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at Christ Episcopal Church, 111 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Doctors Without Borders (www.doctorswithoutborders.org) or The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org)

Arrangements are being handled by Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., 200 S. Harrison St. Easton, MD.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Service

MAY 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church, Easton
111 S. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. James Thomas Rule Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. James Thomas Rule Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. James Thomas Rule Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Dear Joann,,*

We are so sorry for your loss. We too, have a sense of loss. We have lost a friend, and respected , and beloved colleague. He has meant so much to me personally. We shared the same view of our profession as well as life. I will always cherish the time he and I spent in conversation. I will always remember the sharing of stories, books and ideas. He literally gave me purpose and direction . Jim was a great human being and we will miss him.

Mark and Marcia Wagner.

Mark L. Wagner - May 17, 2013 at 07:26 AM

SB

“ Dear Joann and Time, I'm terribly sorry for your loss. My heart and soul is with you. I know your pain. May God soften the heavy burden. We all lost an exceptional man and friend. He met, touched and shaped thousands of people, myself included. They were colleagues, students, teachers, authors, researchers as well as those outside of dentistry. I am among those whom he touched and inspired, and I'm filled with gratitude. Jim was curious. He wanted answers to important questions. He was deeply interested in dentistry as well as in the people he met within it. He will be terribly missed. He used to tease me, asking me to tell him "something profound." I responded, "Compassion is good for the complexion," and then, as he was laughing, I added, That's why you have such a good complexion." He liked this last one. This is the man we lost. Farewell, Jim. Love to you, Jim, and to Joann and Tim-- Sophia Balis and Family

Sophia Balis - May 16, 2013 at 05:17 PM

PF

“ Joanne,
I was deeply sorry to learn of Jim passing - such a fine man. He will be missed by all of us privileged to know him.
Phil Foster



Phil Foster - May 16, 2013 at 12:12 AM

JR

“ We are deeply saddened by the news of Dr. Rules's passing. He gave us the marvelous opportunity to study at the University of Maryland where Dr. Rule and the wonderful department he chaired touched our lives and shaped our careers. He was full of knowledge, wisdom, kindness and humanism. He had a terrific way to transmit these qualities to his students and colleagues and set a very high standard for the rest of us to live up to. We will miss him greatly.

Jose Juambeltz and Laura Radesca

jose juambeltz and laura radesca - May 15, 2013 at 08:03 PM

MW

“ Joann - My condolences to you and your family. Like so many others who worked with Jim, we had the utmost regard for him both both personally and professionally. He was one of the pillars of the school and helped to make it such a special place. Jim will be missed.

Mort Wood

Mort Wood - May 15, 2013 at 12:21 PM

MR

“ I was so saddened to hear of Dr. Rule's passing. He was an amazing man, and I always enjoyed my chats with him at The University of Maryland. I remember during my interview for a residency position that he brought me into his office and spoke with me. He complimented me on my essay and writing skills, and I thought that was a very personable thing to do during a very nervous experience. Dr. Rule also was very complimentary to me on how I seemed to be able to relax my patients, noting that it must be my "slow, quiet Southern drawl." I love my career and I attribute much of it to him and to the entire Department of Pediatric Dentistry at The University of Maryland. Thank you to his family for allowing him to give so much of himself to the Department, and to the students, the residents, and most of all, the children. Dr. Rule will be missed.

Melanie Richards, formerly Melanie Blanton, Class of 1994

melanie richards - May 15, 2013 at 10:40 AM

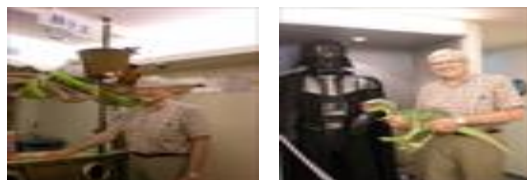
PS

“ Joanne - So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a great teacher and researcher. He will be missed. If you need anything, please let me know. Preston

Preston Shelton - May 15, 2013 at 09:54 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Wen Shiun Tchaou - May 15, 2013 at 12:59 AM

PR

“ We send condolences to Joanne and family. Jim will be missed but not forgotten by colleagues and friends, leaving a legacy of a caring man and professional as well. He made a difference.

Pat and Dick Ranney

Pat Ranney - May 14, 2013 at 07:26 PM



“ Georgia Brandied Peach Pound Cake was purchased for the family of Dr. James Thomas Rule Jr..



May 14, 2013 at 04:28 PM

SJ

“ Joanne and Tim,
I was so sorry to receive the news of Jim's passing. Since 1975, Jim played a significant role in my professional development and, more importantly, in my personal development. He was my teacher, my colleague, my mentor and, most of all, my friend. He was always a pillar of support, through good times and bad.
A terrific person, he will be missed.

Stuart Josell - May 14, 2013 at 03:43 PM

RR

“ Jim was a teacher and friend who was always willing to lend an ear to any concerns and was always willing to give of himself with others needs. He was a truly wonderful man and will be missed by all

Rob Riesenberger

Robert Riesenberger - May 14, 2013 at 03:22 PM

WB

“ I first met Jim when he came to Maryland as chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and I was part-time faculty. He was most accessible for discussions and learning experiences. We continued to be friends and would see each other at meetings and other functions and it was always a treat. JoAnne often was with him and Eva and I have fond memories of all our times with them.

Pediatric dental patients all over the U.S.A. are better for the work he did throughout his career and colleagues are better for the high ethical standards he set for all of us.

Warren A. Brill, DMD

President-Elect

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Clinical Associate Professor, U of MD, Pediatric Dentistry

Warren Brill - May 14, 2013 at 03:19 PM

NT

“ To paraphrase a sentence from his book, *Dentists Who Care*, is perhaps a fitting way to remember Jim -- “While dentistry has many enriching traditions, its moral tradition is enhanced by stories of its moral heroes” -- one of whom is Dr. James T. Rule.

Faculty of School of Dentistry, University of Maryland

Norman Tinanoff - May 14, 2013 at 02:54 PM

DG

“ A wonderful colleague and a wonderful person. He will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him. May the Lord's blessing and comfort be with you.

Larry Garetto

Dr. Lawrence Garetto - May 14, 2013 at 01:58 PM

DB

“ I am shocked and saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I first met him when he was on the faculty at Ohio State and I was a student. He was without a doubt one of the kindest men I ever knew, including in Columbus. When he came to Maryland in 1978, I had been teaching for 4 years, and to see him again was truly like a breath of fresh air. Although I made many life long friends in my teaching career, I can honestly say there have been none better than Jim. I am sure he is sorely missed by his family and eastern shore friends. I pray the Lord's peace in your hearts during this difficult time.

Rick Bradbury

Dr. Rick Bradbury - May 14, 2013 at 11:54 AM

KQ

“ *Joanne and Tim,
I am so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. He was such a great man
and wonderful advocate. He was incredibly special to me and i
treasure our friendship of over 30 years. I will miss him dearly and
smile when I think of him. May your faith and love give you comfort
during this time.*
Love,
Katie Quinlan

Katie Quinlan - May 14, 2013 at 11:05 AM

JH

*Joanne, Judy and I deeply regret the loss of Jim, and his long battle
with cancer. Always someone we looked forward to seeing, never a
cross word, wonderful educator and human being. John & Judy Hasler*

John & Judy Hasler - May 14, 2013 at 02:24 PM