



## Richard E. Hughes, MD

August 15, 1923 - March 1, 2011

Richard E. Hughes, M.D., 87, died on March 1, 2011, resting peacefully at his home in Oxford.

Born on August 15, 1923 at Orange Memorial Hospital in Orange, New Jersey, to the late, Helen Hughes Wachenfeld and Harry E. Hughes, he was raised by his mother and his stepfather, the late, Thomas Wachenfeld, in East Orange, New Jersey.

Following graduation from the Clifford J. Scott High School in East Orange in 1940, Dr. Hughes was employed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in Newark and New York City. At the age of 18, he was inspired to serve his country due to the events of World War II. He enlisted in the United States Army and set off for Burma where he served under the command of Brigadier General Frank Merrill in the 5307th Regiment, also known as Merrill's Marauders. In 1944, he received a field commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and returned to the United States for officer's training.

After his discharge from the Army as a 1st Lieutenant, he entered Harvard University in 1947 and after only two years, was admitted to Harvard Medical School where he received his medical degree in 1953. Dr. Hughes interned at Philadelphia General Hospital and received his general surgical training at York Hospital, in York, PA. He was trained in cardio-thoracic surgery at both the University of Pittsburgh and George Washington University Hospital. Upon completion of his training, he was an Instructor in Surgery at George

Washington University Medical School and Assistant Chief of Surgery at the DC Chest Hospital in Glenn Dale, MD.

In 1962, Dr. Hughes was enticed to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he began his practice as a cardio-thoracic surgeon at Peninsula General Hospital (now Peninsula Regional Medical Center) in Salisbury. His professional accomplishments include his leadership in establishing the intensive care unit at Peninsula General in 1964, and, leading, along with Dr. Nevins W. Todd, the surgical team which performed the first open heart surgery in a community hospital in Maryland in 1974. Additionally, during his tenure at Peninsula General, Dr. Hughes served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery and created the Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. He served terms as president of both the Wicomico County Medical Society and the Eastern Shore Heart Association. A fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Chest Physicians, he was also a member of the Board of Governors committee, the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and the Aesculapian Society. Dr. Hughes continued to serve the hospital community until his retirement in 1992.

Always looking for ways to improve medicine in the community, Dr. Hughes formed the Hughes Non-Invasive Vascular Lab in 1980. He remained the director, even after retirement, until 1994.

In addition to his professional associations, Dr. Hughes was also a member (and former Board of Governors member) of Talbot Country Club, the Tred Avon Yacht Club, the Navy League of the United States, the Miles River Sail and Power Squadron and Poplar Island Yacht Club. He was also a former member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA.

A lifelong Episcopalian, he was a member of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Oxford and a former member of St. Peter's Church in Salisbury.

A Northerner who truly embraced the culture of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, he enjoyed sailing, playing golf, keeping fit, and spending time with his family both in Salisbury and Oxford. His favorite foods included Chesapeake Bay oysters, crabs, and Bill Eason's corn. For the past 15 years,

he and his wife, Doris wintered in Naples, Florida.

In 2009, he completed and published his memoirs, *Four Belles: The Celebration of a Life*. This accomplishment brought him great personal pleasure and peace. It is a wonderful legacy to his wife, his children and grandchildren.

His memory will endure through his loving wife of 49 years, Doris Stump Hughes of Oxford; his four daughters, Amy Hughes Hirsch of Ambler, PA, husband Kevan and her stepdaughters Sally H. Tabor and Jennifer Hirsch; Susan Hughes Mertes of Annapolis and husband Fred; Sarah G. Hughes of Salisbury; Abigail Hughes Marsh of Salisbury and husband Steve; and five grandchildren Keegan, Dulaney, Leighton and Campbell Marsh of Salisbury and Wil Mertes of Annapolis.

Memorial services in celebration of Dr. Hughes' life will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 502 South Morris Street, Oxford, MD and on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 115 St. Peter's Street, Salisbury, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Church of the Holy Trinity, P.O. Box 387, Oxford, MD 21654; The Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, Maryland 21601; or the Tred Avon Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program, P.O. Box 337, 100 West Strand, Oxford, MD 21654. Funeral arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Easton.

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
115 St. Peter's Street  
Salisbury, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard E. Hughes, MD*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Richard E. Hughes, MD*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Richard E. Hughes, MD*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *How sorry I was to hear of your loss. We are out of town and I am so sorry that I won't be there to honor Dr. Hughes memory on Saturday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.##imported-begin##Katie Schroeder & Family##imported-end##*

March 11, 2011 at 10:08 PM



“ Amy and family,

*Our most heartfelt condolences to you during this difficult time. We felt like we knew your father with all the stories I've heard, mostly about how he was so passionate about golf. He seemed like a wonderful and caring husband, father and grandfather. You will miss him terribly. Please let us know if we can do anything for you.*

*Our thoughts are with you,*

*Shelley and Mark Boe###imported-begin##Shelley Boe###imported-end##*

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March 11, 2011 at 09:46 AM



“ Doris, Kris & I were so sorry to hear about Dick. He was such a help to me when I had my Heart problems, & Kris could call on him for Support. We will miss him very much & hope we can stay in touch with you. God Bless you both.###imported-begin##Jim & Kris Haley###imported-end##

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March 06, 2011 at 06:24 PM



“ Doris,  
*Our deepest condolences for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. May you find peace and love in the memories you cherish.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ray and Terry Daly###imported-begin##Terry and Ray Daly###imported-end##*

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March 04, 2011 at 01:52 PM



“ *My Dear Doris,*

*I am so sorry to have learned of Dick's passing, may he rest in peace and you find the strength to get through this difficult time.*

*Signed with affection,  
Francine -- Stonebridge Country Club##imported-begin##Francine  
Cavaseno##imported-end##*

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March 04, 2011 at 12:49 PM