

Welcome to the memorial page for

GEORGE SHEPARD, JR, MD

February 27, 1922 ~ March 25, 2016 (age 94)

**Original document found online at:** <http://www.cranstonfuneralhome.com/notices/GEORGE-SHEPARDJRMD>



Obituary for George Shepard Jr., M.D.

Seaford, DE.— After a long, fruitful and committed life as the only African-American obstetrician/gynecologist in his hometown of Trenton, NJ, we mourn the passing, yet celebrate the life and times of George Shepard Jr., MD, who died March 24th at home in Seaford at the age of 94.

Dr. Shepard was the eldest of three sons born to Beatrice Partridge Shepard and George Shepard Sr., on February 27, 1922, in Raleigh, NC. At a young age the family moved, George and his brothers Alton and Leon grew up in Trenton. Dr. Shepard graduated from Trenton High school in 1940.

Dr. Shepard, who was known to his friends as “Shep”, was a friendly, introspective gentleman with a kind, patient bedside manner. He enjoyed playing cards with his friends and colleagues, teaching his children to swim, watching the boys play soccer, attending musical events at the school, watching action movies in his chair at home, having a Sunday steak dinner with family at a local restaurant, traveling to big cities like New York and Las Vegas, taking cruises to the Caribbean, and relaxing at Trenton’s Tuxedo Club with his father and friends. He enjoyed taking his children to New York for dinner and to experience the Radio City Easter and Christmas shows.

In 1940-43, Dr. Shepard was the first in his family to go to college, Howard University in Washington DC, the then elite historically black university. His studies were interrupted in 1943 when he was drafted into military service as a Private 1st Class. He received an Honorable Discharge from the US Army in 1944, and returned to Howard where he earned a BS in 1946 and an MD in 1950 from Howard’s College of Medicine. Dr. Shepard completed his internship in 1951 and his four-year residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology in 1955 both at Freedman’s Hospital in Washington DC.

In 1955 after finishing his residency, Dr. Shepard returned to his hometown of Trenton where he purchased a house at 269 Bellevue Avenue and established his office and home there on a quiet integrated street, a short walk from his parents’ home and his old neighborhood. The hometown boy hung out his shingle, and began seeing patients and making house calls, sometimes taking his 10-year old daughter Peggy along with him.

Despite his growing workload of patients, Dr. Shepard had a vision of providing better access to reproductive health care for women, and he worked to implement that vision. In 1969, Dr. Shepard was instrumental in founding the Henry Austin Health Center and he provided services there until 1991. He took on additional responsibilities from 1970-1973 when he served as Chair of the OB/GYN Department at Mercer Medical Center, a position he returned to from 1976-1980, when he also became Chair of the OB/GYN practice at the Mercer regional medical group, an HMO. For many years, Dr. Shepard volunteered and worked at Planned Parenthood, where he oversaw the creation of a prenatal clinic.

After becoming a father, Dr. Shepard’s goal in life was to see all of his children graduate from college and become independent, caring, and productive people in society. Dr. Shepard encouraged and supported each child during their educational journey.

In the late 90s, he retired from practice and surgery and moved to Seaford, DE where he married Debbie Palmer-Shepard and raised two sons, Geoffrey and Justin.

He will be missed by a range of friends, colleagues, and family members including six children from his first marriage to the late Evelyn Morrow Shepard: Peggy Morrow Shepard and her husband Charles Loveday, Nina Therese Shepard Walker, Ana Rebekah Atkinson and her husband Harland Atkinson, Shelley Cecile Shepard, Dr. George Shepard III and his partner Jeffrey Eldot, and Gregory Shepard; four grandchildren: Nicole Elise Jackson, Erika Walker, Michelle and Michael Atkinson; nieces and nephews of his late brothers: Carol, Cindy, Alton Jr., Kim and Marna.

He leaves a loving devoted wife Debbie Palmer-Shepard and their two sons, Geoffrey George Shepard and Justin James Shepard. Dr. Shepard is also survived by brother-in-law Dennis Palmer and his wife Maureen Palmer, sister-in-law Robin Palmer-Ray and her husband Craig Ray, and four nieces and nephews: Kristen, Matthew, Kyle and James.

Funeral Services will be on Tuesday, March 29th at 11 AM at St. John's United Methodist Church, Pine & Poplar Sts, Seaford, where friends may call from 10 to 11. Burial will be on Wednesday, March 30th at 11 AM at Greenwood Cemetery, 1800 Hamilton, Ave, Hamilton, New Jersey.

In lieu of flowers you may make a donation to Justin Shepard's college education fund. Checks payable to: Justin Shepard Benefit Fund. M&T Bank 22920 Sussex Highway Seaford, DE 19973.