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Dr. William Harrison dies at 75

BY **Max Brantley** ON September 24, 2010 6:33 pm

0 comments

 Dr. William F. Harrison

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- Dr. William F. Harrison

Dr. William F. Harrison, 75, the Fayetteville obstetrician and gynecologist, died this morning, friends report. He'd become a central figure in the debate over abortion rights. He continued to perform abortions in Fayetteville despite organized protests and threats of violence. Diagnosed with leukemia, he closed his women's clinic earlier this summer. [Doug Smith editorialized about Harrison then](#). Dozens of women who'd been his patients gathered to pay him tribute.

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Harrison wrote on occasion for the *Times*. [That work included a cover story](#) he wrote last year after attending the Wichita funeral of his friend **Dr. George Tiller**, an abortion provider who was murdered in church by an anti-abortionist.

A memorial service is planned for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 4 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

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Max Brantley

Editor of the Times since it became a weekly in May 1992.

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H **hugh mann**
0 points · 10 years ago
Rest in peace, Dr. Harrison.

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E **eLwood**
0 points · 10 years ago

R.I.P. dear Dr Harrison. I enjoyed everyone of your letters to the editor and your columns and thank you for the services so bravely provided to the NWA community for decades.

There's never a rational apology or explanation for the years you had to wear a bullet proof vest to protect you from Jesus' extremists or the numerous times your cars were checked for bombs or the numerous times police had the clear the sidewalk so you could operate a small business. You were and are admired.

Wherever you're headed you deserve a good rest.

.

W **wannabee conservative**
0 points · 10 years ago

Rest well, kind sir.

B **blackberry**
0 points · 10 years ago

I bet its hot.

N **November**
0 points · 10 years ago

"....women gathered to pay tribute???"

Bet you there were not any aborted babies that were part of that crowd !!

God REST his soul !!!

T **Tina**
0 points · 10 years ago

Rest in peace, Dr. Harrison. dont forget he delivered a whole passel of babies, too. I wish he hadn't had such a short retirement, but I suppose he enjoyed his work too much to quit until he had to stop for health reasons. I enjoyed his articles here, too, eLwood.

D **Durango**
0 points · 10 years ago

Who on this blog or anywhere else in Arkansas had the courage (aka, guts and compassion) Dr. Harrison had? Right. Nobody. I know you're resting in peace, Doc, for it ain't hot (as blackberry suggests) where you are. Would love to have known ya, and if there's a heaven, I hope to see ya there some sweet day.

O **ozarkrazo**
0 points · 10 years ago

Ah, noooovember, you must have been one of those pregnant men who used to stand outside the good doctor's clinic and refuse to answer my question: "How many kids have YOU had?". Goodbye to a fine, compassionate human being.

W **wendyme**
0 points · 10 years ago

I worked for Dr. H. many years ago, & I can tell you, they don't make many like now & considering a career in medicine, poss. gynocology, in part because she poverty-stricken areas. She was told stories growing up of my time working for him, how kind & generous he was toward

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his patients and staff. I remember him writing off accounts, letting people pay tiny amounts & not sending them to collection, even getting apples from one woman. I saw providing abortion services as being important to him because of the need women have for access to complete medical care, & he trusted THEM to know what was best for their own life. He made a big impact on someone, my daughter, & didn't even know it. I hope his family reads this & receives one more affirmation of their dad's kind spirit.

H Harrison Baby
0 points · 10 years ago

I'm one of those babies Dr Harrison delivered many years ago. I've known all my life what a great man he was although I never met him. He gave my 18 year old mom a choice. I am thankful she choose to continue the pregnancy, but I'm also thankful he gave her a choice. May you rest in peace, Dr. Harrison.

S Sound Policy
0 points · 10 years ago

wendyme, your post is as good as those from two of our resident Neanderthals, blackberry and November, are ignoble.

C carrotkitten
0 points · 10 years ago

I hate how people forget (or ignore) that after leaving Dr. Harrison's clinic, many of the women he helped went on to happily have children years later. When they were ready and on their own terms. Bless his soul, for he had true compassion and understanding.

L lineatus
0 points · 10 years ago

Dr. Harrison was a very good man, who gave his best for his patients for decades. We were fortunate to have a man so committed to good care.

RIP, Dr. Harrison. May your family have peace and strength to get them through this painful time.

L lola2001000
0 points · 10 years ago

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him and May all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

P pjartist
0 points · 10 years ago

DR. HARRISON SAVED MY LIFE..I HAD CANCER AND THEY ONLY GAVE ME 6 MONTHS; AFTER 3 SURGERIES 30 YEARS LATER I'M STILL GRATEFUL FOR HIS CARE AND PATIENCE WITH ME..I PRAY HIS FAMILY KNOWS THAT HE DIDN'T ONLY DID ABORTIONS, HE ALSO SAVED LIVES TOO. THANK YOU FOR HAVING A COURAGEOUS MAN WHO WAS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF HIS PATIENTS.

T the walrus
0 points · 10 years ago

Blackberry and November...your moral absolutism betrays an ignorance, a hatred, and no effort to understand. Your self-righteousness disgusts me.

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B **ButWhoCares**
0 points · 10 years ago

I ditto Walrus!

M **mro1985**
0 points · 10 years ago

I don't judge anybody, but I would pray for Harrison. This man mocked his patients by calling them "born again". I don't think there is anything admirable about what he did with the life he was given.

M **mro1985**
0 points · 10 years ago

I don't believe he did anything good with his life. I stand in judgement of nobody, but for an abortionist to call his patients "born again". is disturbing. The fact that many abortion dr.s are having their licences revoked shows the criminality of this industry.

G **geekyrrlie**
0 points · 10 years ago

id much rather shoot an abortionist killer. my body, my choice. keep your rosaries aout of my ovaries :)

A **abomination**
0 points · 10 years ago

Josef Mengele was a dedicated physician and a pioneer in the field of abortion.

D **Denise**
0 points · 7 years ago

Rest in peace?? Dr. William Harrison is/was a person of interest in a murder case in Las Vegas, NV. Ya, rest in peace...you piece of ----!!!!

D **Deborah**
0 points · 7 years ago

Denise, I believe the William Harrison you're thinking about was William O. Harrison. Funny, I can't find anything else on it, but remember he and his wife were suspected of actually murdering one of his patients.

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