



Dr. Ralph Owen Hawkins

August 31, 1933 - January 15, 2019

Ralph Owen (R.O.) Hawkins, 85, of Cary NC passed away January 15, 2019. He was born in Smithfield NC August 31, 1933 to Ralph Owen Hawkins and Amanda Stella Horner. He was raised in Pittsboro NC and graduated from Pittsboro High School in 1951. He earned his undergraduate degree and his DDS from UNC-Chapel Hill; he was proud to be a lifelong Tarheel. Ralph was a skilled dentist who was well respected for his diagnostic expertise, friendly demeanor, and empathy toward his patients. He practiced in downtown Cary from 1969 until his retirement in 1997.

Ralph loved to share tales of his travels including his naval service on the USS Ajax. While stationed there, he participated in the French withdrawal from Vietnam (then French Indochina). There he learned Tai Chi and served as an interpreter using the French language skills he had acquired while working in NYC and in high school. Ralph maintained these skills throughout his life. He particularly enjoyed beach time at the Jayhawk on Oak Island, where his seafood cooking skills, clam digging and fried okra were legendary. No image of Ralph would be complete without the beloved crossword puzzles he completed nearly every day. Ralph was a longtime member of Cary Rotary and the NC Dental Society where he served as president. He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for 50 years.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Mary Frances H. Mucciariello, Patsy H. Greene, and Sara H. Idol, and his infant brother Thomas David Hawkins. He was married for 53 years to Susan Elizabeth Shannonhouse, who predeceased him seven years ago. He is survived by two sisters: Peggy H. Lemons and husband Earl, and Jo Anne H. Faucher and husband Pierre. He is also survived by daughter Dana H. Hatch and husband David, daughter Myra R. Hawkins, and William D. Lindsay and wife Beth. He leaves four grandchildren whom he loved dearly: Daniel A. Hatch, Caroline B. Hatch, Christopher S. Lindsay and Julia L. Lindsay. Survivors also include brother-in-law T. Gordon Shannonhouse and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and friends.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 221 Union St. Cary at 3PM on Saturday Feb 2nd. Interment will occur in the memorial garden after the service, followed by a celebration of life in the parish hall.

Condolences can be made at www.wakefuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heifer International or to Outreach Ministries at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. An absence of lilies is requested for flower memorials.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
221 Union St
Cary, NC 27511

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dr. Ralph Owen Hawkins.



February 22, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ Ralph and Susan were a lifesaver for my dad when he had heart surgery. They took him in for several months, helping him through a very trying time for him. Dad talked about how Ralph used his experience as a medic in the service to aid him in walking, bathing, and general moral support. I will never forget their generosity. Laura R. Linder

Laura - February 22, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ Dear Dana and Myra,

Your mother and father were among the first people to welcome my husband Phil and me to Cary back in 1969. They were great friends. Ralph was our dentist until he retired, so our entire family has many memories of him. I am so sorry for your loss. May you be comforted.
sincerely,
Christine Albro



Christine Albro - January 28, 2019 at 06:23 PM

AD

“ Always of cheerful spirit. We enjoyed many an hour hanging out with Ralph, either on the screened porch overlooking the ocean at Oak Island or at the many dinners and get-togethers we were so kindly invited to at Oak Island. He enjoyed crossword puzzles and his successes in the stock market (although he never revealed his stock picks to me, much to my chagrin). Lisa and I enjoyed the great stories he'd relate about his dental profession. He was always of good humor. You never heard him complain. It was like pulling teeth to get him to share any health concerns he had.

He was an accepting and indefatigable champion for all family members and their friends. Which is why we all enjoyed spending time with him. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Oak Island, and our lives, will be a poorer place without Ralph Hawkins.

Albert Munn and Lisa DeJarnette - January 20, 2019 at 08:19 PM

TD

“ Ralph and I came to Cary at the same time and opened our dental practices in the same building next door to each other. Ralph had been practicing for a few years and I was a brand new dentist. It was great to have him right close by! Ralph became a lifelong friend, a fellow Rotarian, a very respected colleague, and a frequent visitor to my office after his retirement. A great man, fun to be around--he will be missed by so many.

Pat and I send our deep sympathy and our prayers for comfort to Dana, Myra and all of Ralph's family.

Tom Brooks

Thomas E. Brooks, DDS - January 19, 2019 at 01:34 PM

PP

“ My sadness is great to hear of the death of a dear friend. Love to you Jo Ann and Peggy, and to the children of Susan and R.O.; as well as the rest of the family. I shall miss him at our reunions, a sweet, sweet man; and will remember the everlasting friendship of not just R.O., but all the wonderful Hawkins siblings.

Phreddie DeLois Wright Popp - January 18, 2019 at 05:38 PM