



Dr. Thomas Andrew Minetree

July 7, 1931 - January 8, 2020

Thomas Andrew Minetree, MD, passed away on January 8, 2020 in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. He was 88 years old. Visitation will be held Saturday, January 18, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., at Highland Baptist Church, Florence. The funeral service will immediately follow, with John Brock officiating.

Minetree was born on July 7, 1931, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, the son of Ruth Vernon Minetree (née Ester) and Richard Herbert Minetree, Sr. He was a star football player at Poplar Bluff High School, where he lettered in three sports: football, basketball, and track. Minetree was a fast sprinter and ran the hundred yard dash in 10 seconds. He attended the University of Missouri in Columbia on a football scholarship, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and played halfback for the Mizzou Tigers. After University, Minetree married the love of his life, Virginia Mae McClanahan, on May 22, 1955. He began medical school that following fall at the University of Arkansas and was board certified in diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, and nuclear medicine.

For much of his life Minetree was an avid pilot. He purchased his first airplane, a 1946 Aeronica 11 Chief, at the age of 21 for \$600 with the initial plan of earning money as an aerial photographer. He owned and flew a number of aircraft over the years and flew multiple times per week for most of his adult life.

During his career as an oncologist, Minetree established and operated several radiation therapy centers across the South and Midwest. He was the founder of Bethesda Cancer Centers and one of the first pioneers of free-standing cancer centers in the United States. He was the first individual in the nation to purchase a medical linear accelerator, which is still used today in cancer treatment. Over his career as an oncologist he owned and operated 12 cancer centers which were located in Carterville, IL, Carbondale, IL, Florence, AL, Muscle Shoals, AL, Sheffield, AL, Tullahoma, TN, Cookeville, TN, West Memphis, AR, Greenville, MS, Clarksdale, MS, Joplin, MO, and Sikeston, MO.

After Minetree retired from medical practice in his mid 60s, he and his wife, Virginia,

moved to their ranch outside of Aspen, Colorado. He loved the beauty of the snow-capped Elk Mountain range, the abundant wildlife, and skiing in the Colorado Rockies. In his mid-60s, Minetree developed a passion for downhill skiing. He devoted the long winter months to chasing fresh powder around the High Rockies, perfecting his form, and outskiing his younger friends and family into his 80s.

Minetree was a dedicated follower of Christ and supported a number of Christian ministries that were dear to him and his wife's heart, including the Bethlehem Project, Jerusalem Project, In Touch Ministries, and HeartCry Missionary Society.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Virginia Mae McClanahan; the couple had seven (7) children: Thomas Andrew Minetree, II (Pam), Ruth Lea Minetree, Christian David Minetree, Andrew Minetree (Lynn), Virginia Marie Minetree, Malisa Minetree Hicks (Jeff), and Nicole Minetree Dill (Drew). Their eighteen (18) grandchildren include Thomas Minetree, III, Sean Minetree, Matthew Minetree, Mareth McGee Poag (Parker), Olivia Fanizza Chase (Peter), Meredith Minetree Haygood (Chad), Tessa Minetree Goggans (Daniel), Caleb Minetree (Ali), Hannah Robbins Magee (Dominique), Elle Robbins, Harrison Hicks (Mirella), Isabel Hicks, Hayden Hicks, Samuel Hicks, John Dill, George Dill, and Violet Dill. Their thirteen (13) great-grandchildren include Ava, Parker, and Charlie Poag, Thaddeus and Simeon Chase, John Andrew, Luke, Jude, and Meg Haygood, Judah Goggans, and Ashtyn, Ari, and Israel Magee. He was preceded in death by his brothers Harry Minetree, of Los Angeles, California and Richard Herbert Minetree, Jr, of Poplar Bluff, Missouri as well as his daughter, Ruth Lea, of Aspen, Colorado and infant son Christian David.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

18

Highland Baptist Church

219 Simpson St., Florence, AL, US, 35630

JAN **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

18

Highland Baptist Church

219 Simpson St., Florence, AL, US, 35630

Comments



“ I recall Dr Minetree walking into my office and teaching me how "when I was right about the subject in question, to be enlightened by the experience and with great humility acknowledge the honor and intentions of the other party". It is my humble opinion he was a genius and explained it in such a way it has stuck with me and served me well in my professional life. I emphathize with Andrew, Lynn, Meredith, Tessa, Caleb, Tom & family, Mrs. Minetree, Malesa and Nicole and extended families. It was my pleasure to work for and with your family. I know he is truly missed and loved.
Time will help heal the heartache and knowing God is there gives me peace. May you find the peace I now have to give you solace and sustain you until God calls us home.
I remain "A fool and his money are soon parted", I know counting on God keeps my refrigerator healthy, cabinets stocked, and the nasty virus at bay... . Love to you all.

Shelain - March 24 at 01:33 AM



“ Tom and family -- you are in our thoughts and prayers as we mourn with you the loss of your father, but also celebrate his long life and many accomplishments. Dr. Minetree will be missed by all those that had the good fortune to know him. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your family of classmates if there is anything we can do.
The CCHS Class of '75

Jim Crouch - January 17 at 04:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Morrison Funeral Homes - January 17 at 03:31 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Andrew Minetree.



January 17 at 01:15 PM



“ 3 files added to the album LifeTributes



Morrison Funeral Homes - January 17 at 01:13 PM



“ 63 files added to the album LifeTributes



Morrison Funeral Homes - January 17 at 11:53 AM



“ Tom, what a man of God your father is! I rejoice with you in his homegoing, but mourn YOUR loss. My heart is still so tender after watching mother transition from this world into the presence of The Lord, to see Daddy again! May you feel God's comfort and peace at this time. I look forward to meeting your father one day! He certainly heard God say "WELL DONE!"

Denise Covington - January 17 at 04:49 AM



“ Denise Covington lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Andrew Minetree



Denise Covington - January 17 at 04:45 AM



“ We were saddened to hear about Doc. He was "one of a kind" and I can only hope that I have half the drive and energy he did at age 80! Dr. Minetree accomplished much in his life and was able to do so by not wasting any time--he was always quick to tell you what was on his mind. He had an amazing IQ and a photographic memory. I was glad to have known him and will always be thankful for his kindness toward me and my family.

To Mrs. Minetree and the entire family, Susan and I extend our deepest sympathy to you and we send you our prayers.

Marty & Susan

Marty & Susan Abroms - January 16 at 01:54 AM



“ Lynn and Andrew I'm praying peace over your family. I love you.
Andrea Carpenter Allen



Andrea Allen - January 15 at 09:21 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Andrew Minetree.



January 14 at 02:56 PM



“ Minetree family, Oh how very saddened to hear the loss of our precious, caring, mentor, loving friend. We will be praying for all, during this difficultly time that your family and all you will have to endure.
DR. T.A., I thank God for giving you to our family. You were a special man of God, who talked and taught us about the Lord, tithing, giving, sharing Gods word and His love would never come back void.
Words will never express our love for him and the Minetree family.
We often speak of his name and all the opportunities in our life that he freely gave to us, you opened your heart, home and family wide open to us and we treasured every moment and memory he gave us.
We will always be here to help with any and all your family with any needs.
We love you and you will always missed.

Rodney, Yvonne and Nathan Stewart.



yvonne stewart - January 14 at 09:20 AM



“ Tom ...so sorry for your loss !!! Your Dad made such an impact on so many lives not only physically but spiritually as well . He left such a legacy . Praying for peace and comfort and knowing He transitioned to his Heavenly home .

My deepest sympathy

Dave Hayden

Dave Hayden - January 17 at 05:23 AM



“ Way back in the 1960's Dr. Tom was the radiologist at the Doctor's Hospital in Poplar Bluff during the time I was the first Physical Therapist there. Dr. Stokely was my father-in-law then, and recounted many stories about his next door neighbors, the Minetrees.

Patricia Klos - May 10 at 12:26 AM