



## Dr. James Curtis Lesnett

August 16, 1952 - September 28, 2023

Dr. James Curtis Lesnett, Sr. (Jim), 71, of Radford, Virginia and formerly of Bluefield, West Virginia, died Thursday, September 28, 2023 at Lewis-Gale Montgomery Hospital in Radford, Virginia.

Born in 1952 in Chester, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Stewart Curtis Lesnett and Orpha Alice Sypolt Lesnett. During his early years, Jim lived and traveled across the United States and Canada, following his father from construction site to construction site. Jim and his family finally settled down in Kingwood, West Virginia when local ordinances and a truant officer mandated that he be enrolled in elementary school.

Jim was an only child, so his parents surrounded him with a virtual barnyard of pets, including dogs, cats, a horse, chinchillas, and even a flying squirrel (true story). Growing up, Jim was an avid bowler, a self-proclaimed “pool shark”, and the captain of his high school wrestling team. Little did he know that his wrestling moves would later prove to be invaluable parenting techniques.

Jim graduated from Kingwood High School in 1970 and from West Virginia University in 1974. After college, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Becky, to whom he was married for more than 48 years.

Jim graduated from the West Virginia University School of Medicine in 1978 and practiced as a primary care physician in Bluefield, West Virginia and Bluefield, Virginia for more than 30 years. After spending more than 30 years treating patients with various ointments and elixirs and fighting the good fight against Medicare, Medicaid, and various insurance carriers, Jim retired from

his medical practice and moved to Radford, Virginia to pursue his true passion – fishing.

Jim's life's goal was to catch a fish in all 50 states. He had 44 states under his belt before he passed, but Alaska, Hawaii, California, Nevada, Idaho, and North Dakota are on the agenda for the afterlife. Jim was last heard telling doctors tall tales about how many fish he had caught just the day before. Fish everywhere are breathing a big sigh of relief. Jim was also a rabid fan of West Virginia University football and the Pittsburgh Steelers, and he will be laid to rest with his favorite WVU football t-shirt and his Terrible Towel in tow.

Jim is survived by his wife, Rebecca Lesnett of Radford, Virginia, and three children, Jamie Lesnett and his wife, Kristen, of Charlotte, North Carolina, Angie Lesnett of Columbus, Ohio, and Michael Lesnett and his wife, Katie, of Bluefield, West Virginia. Jim is also survived by eight grandchildren who treasured time with their beloved Paw Paw – Ava Grace Lesnett, Jack Lesnett, Trey Hamilton, Troy Hamilton, Kayden Myers, Eli Lesnett, Penelope Lesnett, and Destiny Lesnett.

Jim's family has disregarded his last request for a Viking funeral on the New River, so a memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at Mercer Funeral Home at 3:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the service hour. All are welcome to celebrate Jim's life and share their favorite memories.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visit [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 1. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel  
1231 West Cumberland Road  
Bluefield, WV 24701

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ My mom was one of Dr. Lesnett's first patients and we got drafted to the practice too. Over the next 25 or so years Dr. Lesnett became someone we depended on, especially after my mom's diagnosis of brain tumors. He was there with me til the end taking care of her. God bless you, Jim, for all that you did for my mom. She loved you.

Robin Shrewsbury - January 31, 2024 at 12:13 AM

DC

“ I learned of Dr. Lesnett's death yesterday. When our daughter was born September 17, 1992, we chose Dr. Lesnett for our pediatrician. He accepted and was wonderful. Today she is practicing family medicine. He also served as our family doctor thanks to my beautiful wife. We are sorry for your loss.

douglas cox - October 27, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ Dr. James Curtis Lesnett

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM

DA

“ My wife and I enjoyed having Dr. Lesnett as a colleague for many years at BRMC. My favorite memory is seeing him in the doctors' lounge on a Monday morning with all fingers and both thumbs covered in bandaids due to battling a Muskie over the weekend. We are sorry for your loss.

Drs. Don and Carol Asbury

Donald Asbury - October 01, 2023 at 03:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. James Curtis Lesnett.*



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October 01, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ *Dr Ledbetter was my physician for years. Such a wonderful physician and person. I thought the world of him. My deep condolences to the family and all who loved him as I did. Celesta Starling*

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**Celesta Starling** - October 01, 2023 at 08:42 AM



*Dr Lesnett - I'm sorry for the computer changing the name.*

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**Celesta Starling** - October 01, 2023 at 08:44 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. James Curtis Lesnett.*

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September 30, 2023 at 04:17 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James Curtis Lesnett.*



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September 30, 2023 at 04:17 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James Curtis Lesnett.*



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September 30, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ *Dr Lesnett was a great doctor. He was always sweet to all the staff.  
T  
Everyone loved his fishing stories. So sorry. Prayers for Becky and family*

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**Maggie Milled** - September 30, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ *I worked with Dr. Lesnett in the early days at BRMC, when I was still working as a Registered Nurse. I remember him as an excellent physician who was also cordial to work with. My deepest condolences.*

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**Karel Brown Ryan** - September 29, 2023 at 08:07 PM



“ *Deepest condolence... I worked with Dr. Lesnett in the early days at BRMC. He was an excellent physician.*

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**Kimberly Croy** - September 29, 2023 at 06:29 PM

RM

“ I had the honor of working with Jim for many years. He was was with Drs Degray and Wills when I started my practice in 1984. That was perhaps one of the best medical practices I ever worked with. Jim was an exceptional clinician and loved his profession. He truly cared for his patients. As one can tell from the obituary text he was a very witty fellow. He fought as much as any Doctor against the government onslaught on the medical profession. He did have some great fishing tales that he would spread around the doctor’s lounge on occasion. I pray for comfort for his family and , quite frankly, I would have loved that Viking funeral! God speed, Doctor Jim. The world is a bit more empty without you.

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**Randall Lester MD** - September 29, 2023 at 04:58 PM

CM

*Dear family and loved ones:  
I am so sorry to hear this news. I enjoyed knowing you all long ago. Dr. Lesnett was a great family doctor. I like his humor and outlook on things. Peace to all.*

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**Cindy Romano McGraw** - September 29, 2023 at 07:01 PM

PM

*So sorry to hear this. I worked with him and his wife at BRMC. It sounds like he had a great life and retirement. Loved his Obituary, Dr. Lesnett never had much to say when he made rounds. He was in a great practice with Dr. Wills and Dr Degray like Dr. Lester said. Those were some of the best years of my life working at BRMC. I am sorry for your loss. He was still a young man. I hope you can find some comfort knowing there are a lot of people who cared about him. He was great to his patients.*

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**Pat Mitchell** - September 29, 2023 at 08:52 PM

FK

*Frank and I loved Dr. Lesnett! We were his patients from his early days until his retirement. Becky we are so sorry to hear of his passing. Sympathy and love to you and your beautiful family. Loved his obituary!  
Frank and Connie Kersey*

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**Frank Kersey** - October 01, 2023 at 10:20 AM

AT

*I am so sorry about Dr Lesnett's passing. He was a fine physician that cared for our entire family. Prayers for peace and comfort in the coming days.*

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**Ann Taylor** - October 03, 2023 at 09:58 AM

LG

*Great ,great Dr I am so shocked and sad at his passing. He helped my family in so many ways for so many years. He absolutely was such and caring and thorough way person He was a one of a kind Dr. Fantastic obituary. Every time I look out over a body of water I will think about a viking burial and remember Dr Lesnett. Down to earth super person . Sympathy to Becky and family.*

*Larry and Arleen Garrett*

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**Larry Garrett** - October 03, 2023 at 10:52 PM