

James Wilburn Harrison, M.D.

James Wilburn Harrison, M.D., of Texarkana, TX, died on 17 September 2005 in a local hospital after a brief illness at the age of 87.

Dr. Harrison was born in Martin, TN, one of three children of Woodson and Georgia Bailey Harrison. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Tennessee. He was a member of Delta Psi Omega, Alpha Sigma Delta, Phi Chi, and Theta Nu Epsilon fraternities. He completed his medical internship at Nashville General Hospital.

In 1942, Dr. Harrison was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. In February of 1943, he was ordered to active duty and served for three years in the China-Burma-India and Southwest Pacific theatres, and thereafter served for one year as an Army transport surgeon in the Pacific and Atlantic. At the conclusion of World War II, Dr. Harrison resumed his medical training. He began his residency in obstetrics and gynecology while stationed at Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, TX. He then served as Chief of Surgery at the U.S. Army Hospital in Clark Field, Philippine Islands, and was a resident and chief resident at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco. Dr. Harrison's final station in the U.S. Army was at Camp Polk, LA, where he was Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the U.S. Army Hospital.

In 1954, Dr. Harrison resigned his commission in regular Army as a full colonel. Later that year he entered private practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist at Southern Clinic in Texarkana. Dr. Harrison played an active role in the local medical community.

Early in his career, Dr. Harrison was an assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Arkansas College of Medicine in Little Rock. He served as Chief of Staff and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Michael and Wadley Hospitals. Dr. Harrison was chairman of the Bowie County Child Welfare Board, a member of the Northeast Texas Mental Health Board, President of the Tri-State Medical Society, and a founding member of the American Trauma Society. Dr. Harrison was a diplomate of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the International College of Surgeons, the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. and a life member of the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, and the Texas Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Harrison retired from private practice in 1985 after 50 years of practice.

Dr. Harrison's love for the U.S. Army and passion for medical training and public service was again manifested when, in 1969, he became a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, while continuing his private practice in Texarkana. Between 1969 and 1977, Dr. Harrison served as Chief of Professional Services at the 114th Evacuation Hospital in Shreveport, LA; Chief of Training for the 3457th U.S. Army Medical Training Center in Houston; Deputy Commander of the 807th Hospital Center in Mesquite, TX; Commander of the 94th General Hospital in Mesquite; and Commander of the 4005th Augmentation Hospital in Houston. In addition to these duties, Dr. Harrison continued his military education, and in 1972 graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS. He later became a founding member of the alumni



association of the college. Dr. Harrison was decorated with the Army Commendation Medal, the Legion of Merit, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Dr. Harrison retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in 1978 with a total of 35 years active and reserve service.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, the former Babs Dudley of Manila and San Francisco; two sons, James W., Jr. of Dyer, TN; James Michael Dudley (and his wife Vicki) of Dallas; and two daughters, Babs Suzanne of New York and Lala of San Francisco.

Those wishing to memorialize Dr. Harrison may make a contribution to the University of Tennessee Medical School, Memphis, or Dubuis Hospital in St. Michael Hospital, Texarkana. Initial arrangements are being handled by Texarkana Funeral Home, with burial and memorial service to follow in San Francisco. Services will be private.