



## Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.

June 15, 1931 - January 8, 2020

SAVANNAH - Dr. Wesley James Ball, M.D., 88, went to be with God on January 8, 2020 peacefully at his Savannah home surrounded by family. He lived a very fulfilling life with Patricia Ball (née Boatright), his wife of 62 years. Dr. Ball shall be remembered for his genuine care and concern for his fellow human beings informed by his unwavering faith in God's mercy and love for all.

The Moultrie native was born June 15, 1931 to the late Hayward Wesley Ball and Catherine Alexander Ball. Growing up, he attended schools in the Moultrie school system and graduated from Moultrie High School. He then attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, graduating in 1952 with a baccalaureate degree in biology, and shortly after earned the M.S. degree in biology from Atlanta University. He studied medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, from which he received the MD degree. During his time at Meharry, he married his graduate school sweetheart Patricia in 1957. Next, he completed his rotating internship at Trumbull Memorial Hospital in Warren, Ohio and then his general surgery residency at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1964 Dr. Ball came to Savannah, where he practiced surgery for thirty-three years. He was active on the medical staffs of Candler Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Memorial Medical Center. He served on the board of directors of

all three hospitals and on the Board of Candler Health Services. Dr. Ball served on the Medical Staff Executive Committee of Candler Hospital for many years and was the first black surgeon to serve as Chief of Staff at Candler Hospital. He was a past president of the Georgia State Medical Association and served on its Executive Committee for many years. In 1992, the GSMA awarded Dr. Ball its prestigious Gold Medal for Distinguished Service.

During President Jimmy Carter's administration, Dr. Ball was chairman of the Health Services Area Board. He was a past member of the Morehouse Medical School Advisory Board. Dr. Ball served as physician at Greenbriar Children's Center for twenty years. His service as a physician at the Chatham Nursing Home was particularly distinguished by his insistence on policy changes to ensure equal care for all patients regardless of their ethnic origins or background. In addition, Dr. Ball made numerous medical mission trips to Haiti. Dr. Ball was a mentor and "godfather of medicine" to many young and fledgling medical practitioners. The medical community knew him most famously for his loving and kind manner, which were outward manifestations of his genuine faith, conviction, and altruism.

Dr. Ball was deeply involved in community service. He served on the Board of the Chatham County Department of Family and Children services for ten years and chaired the Board for four years. He was physician for the football team at Jenkins High School for eight years. He served on the Westside Urban Health Center Board of Directors for four years, was a founding Board member of the Westside Comprehensive Health Center and served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of Carver State Bank.

His deep sense of social consciousness guided him to become involved with the local branch of the NAACP early on. A life member of the NAACP, Dr. Ball served on the Board of Directors of the Savannah Branch for over twenty-five

years. He served as chairman of its Health Committee and participated in formulating plans for school desegregation, political action, and voter registration and mobilization. He and his wife Patricia served on the Freedom Fund Dinner Committee for many years.

Dr. Ball and his family are members of the Liberty City Church of Christ, where he served as an Elder and a Sunday School teacher for many years. Gracious and humane, Dr. Ball has transformed many lives through his skills, his compassion, and his faith. A model for the dedicated life of good works, kind words, and radiant affirmation, his achievement and aspirations offer inspiration to all. He shall be remembered.

He leaves to cherish his memories his wife, Ardella Patricia Ball; his four children, Wesley James Ball Jr. (Deborah), Roderic Lynn Ball, Weselyn Ball Grimes (Randall), and Patrick Wayne Ball (Monica); his seven grandchildren, William Earl Brown, Jessica Randi Grimes, Maya Lynette Grimes, Roderic Lynn Ball Jr., Ivory Constance Grimes, Victoria Celeste Ball, Gabrielle Elise Ball; his three siblings, Marjorie B. Walker (James), Frederick W. Ball (Juanita), and Alfred L. Ball; and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Strong Memorial Gardens

Moultrie, GA 31768

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Church of Christ-Liberty City  
1709 Staley Ave  
Savannah, GA 31405-3833  
(912) 236-3201

# Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Angela Delimar lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Angela Delimar** - March 12, 2020 at 06:53 PM

AA

“ *Angela Delimar Allen lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Angela Delimar Allen** - March 12, 2020 at 06:49 PM

JT

“ *To Mrs. Ball and family, my sincere condolences go out to the entire family in the promotion of Dr. Ball to God's glory. I remember when I was a little girl and use to come to your house to play, he always displayed a very kind, loving spirit. May God grant you peace and comfort during this time.*

*Jenean K (Wilson) Turner*

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**Jenean K (Wilson) Turner** - January 18, 2020 at 05:38 PM

BJ

“ *Bobbie Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Bobbie Jones** - January 18, 2020 at 03:04 PM

JE

“ *Dr. Ball was the first and only African American doctor to perform surgery on my late mother, Mrs. Mattie Pearl Woody. He was thorough and the consummate professional.*

*Jerome Woody, Claxton*

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**Jerome** - January 18, 2020 at 01:11 PM

SI

“ *Dear Pat,*

*It seems not so long ago, I met you and Dr. Ball as an employee at the Guarantee Building on West Broad Street (MLK). Time quickly passes as we age but the foot print we leave behind remains forever. The contributions Dr Ball made to our community created many positive outcomes in the lives of those he helped. I shall always remember his smile and graciousness. May you and your family be surrounded by friends and loving memories of Dr Ball.*

*Safronia Ingram*

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**Safronia Ingram** - January 17, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..*



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January 17, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ *Katrina Dixon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**katrina Dixon** - January 17, 2020 at 08:26 AM



“ *James & Vanessa Handley and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..*



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**James & Vanessa Handley and family** - January 16, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..*



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January 16, 2020 at 03:06 PM

MW

“ *Marjorie, Ken and Kathy Walker purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..*



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**Marjorie, Ken and Kathy Walker** - January 16, 2020 at 12:58 PM

OH

“ *Dr. Wesley James (Jackie) Ball and I were classmates at Moultrie High School for Negro Youth; we were two of the youngest members of the class. Our class produced the highest number of honor students of Moultrie High. Jackie and I were two of those honor students.*

*Jackie graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and became a physician. I graduated from Paine College in Augusta, GA and became an educator.*

*Four of his siblings and four of mine were classmates throughout their school years at Moultrie High.*

*Jackie was well loved and respected by all who knew him.*

*Odessa W. Hooker*



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**Odessa W. Hooker** - January 15, 2020 at 09:09 PM

TF

“ *The Grimes Family and The Williams Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..*



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**The Grimes Family and The Williams Family** - January 15, 2020 at 04:38 PM

GB

“ *Gwen Bryant lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Gwen Bryant** - January 15, 2020 at 01:07 PM

GB

“ *Condolences to Sis. Ball, Rod, Nana, Patrick, and Wesley Jr. Dr Ball was such a wonderful person- especially when he made the decision to hire me for his office. Working for him those 8 years and attending church with him all those years was such a pleasure. I will miss his smile and his understanding ways.*

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**Gwen Bryant** - January 15, 2020 at 01:03 PM

GB

“ *Gwen Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Gwen Bryant** - January 15, 2020 at 12:46 PM

RB

“ *Condolences to the Family. Hardeevillee Church of Christ. Minister Rufus W. Bright jr.*



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**Rufus Bright** - January 14, 2020 at 11:52 PM

CJ

“ *Our condolences to the family of the late Dr. Wesley J. Ball. Missing him dearly as he holds a special place in our hearts. He was a father figure and a great leader. We enjoyed all the special times spent at the Ball's home with Sis. Ball , Wesley Jr., Rod , Nana, and Patrick. S.I.P. Dr. Ball*



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**Carruthers , Gloria, and Amyah Johnson** - January 14, 2020 at 07:59 PM

JF

“ *I have very happy memories of our shared experiences in Haiti during the 80's. There I was able to experience the sincere caring and kindness of Wesley. Thankfully I still have several treasured pictures from those mission trips. One that I particularly like is of Patricia and Wesley standing behind an elaborate heart created on the street by Haitians with colored powders, stones and flower petals. I am sure that those on the trip including Chuck Powell, Jimmy Metts, Reds Helmy, Austine Smith, myself (Jim Flanagan) and others will certainly have lasting fond memories being with each other.*

*Wesley will certainly be missed.*

*Jim Flanagan.*

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**Jim Flanagan** - January 14, 2020 at 09:23 AM

LB

“ *Dr Wesley James Ball (aka Doc; Jackie), was such an amazing well rounded, humble and genuine man. His character was one that exemplified his love 1st for God, then his wife, his family, patients, friends, and many others. Not only was Doc, an excellent general surgeon, but he was also a loyal and dedicated servant of God.*



*Doc was my Uncle Hayward's and Aunt Catherine's 1st born son that became a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor, role model, consultant, philanthropist, a friend to many and I must add...Doc was truly an amazing cousin, to me!*

*Doc's actions lined up with his talk, which lined up with the word of God. Without a doubt, he will be missed. But family in as much as we loved and will sincerely miss Doc, God truly loved him more! Doc left a very noteworthy and honorable legend behind that we all can appreciate and use as a road map to hopefully, see him again.*

*Family, let us keep each other lifted up in prayer that God will continue to comfort and strengthen each of us, every day, in every way!!*

*With Love,  
Laretta Ball-Jeffcoat*

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**Laretta Ball-Jeffcoat** - January 14, 2020 at 12:43 AM

MJ

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Dr Ball's loving family. He was always very kind hearted, as a doctor and a person.*

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**Mary Dillwood Jones** - January 13, 2020 at 11:40 PM

SW

“ Sending my condolences too the family. I remember after church always going too The Balls how for dinner and swimming. What a beautiful family. My prayers are with you.

Sylvia Williams - January 13, 2020 at 11:24 PM

DA

“ I remember when you, mom, and Dr. Ball would come to Old National. it was always good to see your mom and dad.



Deborah Adams - January 13, 2020 at 09:57 PM

CD

“ Dr Ball will always have a special place in my heart. He was more than a Boss and he didn't treat any of his employees as employees , we were and always will be family. You are definitely going to be missed.

Carolyn Albany Daniels - January 13, 2020 at 01:50 PM

TG

“ Timothy And Norma Gabe Grayson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.



Timothy and Norma Gabe Grayson - January 13, 2020 at 11:17 AM

CB

“ *Dr Ball was one of my favorite surgeons to work with. He was always the same and was loved by all.*

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**Carolyn Blake** - January 13, 2020 at 10:38 AM

TM

“ *Tyrone And Susan McCloud lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Tyrone and Susan McCloud** - January 13, 2020 at 10:14 AM

PP

“ *My condolences to the Ball Family from the Perry & Smith families of Cloverdale. SIH.*



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**Pamel Perry** - January 13, 2020 at 06:16 AM

GM

“ *Georgi Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Georgi Mitchell** - January 12, 2020 at 06:09 PM

JR

“ *Jolene Ike Seese, RN lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



Jolene Ike Seese, RN - January 12, 2020 at 05:56 PM

AR

“ *Agnes Collins, RN lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



Agnes Collins, RN - January 12, 2020 at 05:55 PM

AR

*A superb physician and a very caring individual.*

Agnes Collins, RN - January 12, 2020 at 05:58 PM

TM

“ *My condolences to Mrs. Ball and the Ball family. I was the RN evening charge nurse on the med-surgical unit (4C in the 70's) at Candler Hospital. Dr. Ball's professionalism, kindness, and genuine interest in people and especially his patients distinguished him. My fondest memory is a time when he was making rounds on the unit and as usual he asked "how are you doing ?" I was experiencing emotional challenges at that time, and responded with "Dr. Ball, do you really want to know". He said "yes" and gave me his listening ear and encouraging words. He will be remembered.*  
*Trudy*

trudy mcfarland - January 12, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ *Dr. Ball was a Savannah medical legend, a principled, selfless man who always had his patients' best interests at heart. He will be missed. God bless him and his family.*

*Mark E. Murphy, MD.*



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**Mark Murphy** - January 12, 2020 at 10:41 AM

SH

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy. I was a patient of Dr. Ball's when he would finish seeing his patients in Savannah and come to the Historic Dorchester Academy here in Liberty County. I can only imagine how tired he may have been. He would come to fulfill the medical needs of his people. May God rest his soul. True Servant of God, Well Done! You have been faithful.*



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**Sharon Hopkins Terry / Hinesville** - January 12, 2020 at 07:22 AM

LM

“ *Lynda Milner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Lynda Milner** - January 12, 2020 at 07:04 AM

LM

*An excellent physician that left a lasting impression ! I Shall always remember his kindness.. My condolences to his family.*

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**Lynda Milner** - January 12, 2020 at 07:10 AM

LT

*Dr.W.Ball was my doctor. A man of Faith, Honor and Humor. He always cared for his patients and would be in his office with Nurse Loadholt (Loadie) until late evening into the night. A skilled surgeon and caring human. We stayed until Dr.Ball saw us, examined us and sometimes prayed with us!!!!*

*His caring, kind and loving heart will always be cherished by me!!!  
Rest In Glory!!!!*

*Victory In Jesus*

*Now With The Great Physician*

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**Lawanda Tillman** - January 12, 2020 at 01:18 PM

VF

“ *My doctor of years ago. He was such a professional and kinder spirt for his patients*



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**v flowers** - January 11, 2020 at 10:28 PM

RW

“ *Rashidah Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.*



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**Rashidah Williams** - January 11, 2020 at 10:25 PM

RW

“ *Dr.Ball was genuinely a good person he was soft-spoken , understanding, and so easy to talk to also always smiling you will be truly missed but never forgotten*

*My deepest sympathy,*

*Rashidah Williams*

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**Rashidah Williams** - January 11, 2020 at 10:23 PM

JR

*The moment I met him in his office, I realized he was a dedicated caring professional physician. Dr. Ball served the community. I also had the opportunity to teach his children.*

Jeannette W Ready - January 11, 2020 at 10:48 PM

CM

*Doctor Ball the Best you could ever have My Condolences to the family and my Church Members 🙏🙏🙏*

Costella Montgomery - January 11, 2020 at 11:17 PM

BS

*My dearest condolences go out to Ball family. From The Brunswick Church Of Christ.*

Brendia Smalls - January 12, 2020 at 03:20 PM

TK

*My condolences to the family.*

Tonia Johnson Kerr - January 12, 2020 at 09:45 PM



*Rest in peace, my friend..Jean Hancock, RN*

Jean Hancock - January 14, 2020 at 11:27 AM

CR

“*Family,  
I know we will all miss our dear Doc, but we can be so proud of all the love, support and care he provided us throughout his life. He will always have a special place in our hearts. Love, Peace, Comfort and Blessings to my family!  
Cynthia Ball Robinson, Teaneck, New Jersey*

cynthia Ball Robinson - January 11, 2020 at 09:34 PM

GM

*I was a patient of Dr Ball many years ago, He knew how to make you feel better as soon as he came to check you. With his kind manner and genuine personality. And when I began working at Candler Hospital some years ago,he was no different. When he would see you in the halls of the hospital making his rounds to see his patients he would give you a big smile or a cheerful wave and sometimes a shout out of well hello there. I know we will all his very kind spirit. Dr Ball take your Rest we all truly Loved you, But God Love you Best. Georgi B Alexander- Mitchell*

**Georgi B. Alexander- Mitchell** - January 12, 2020 at 10:32 AM

MM

“ *Praying for God's Divine strength and comfort for the Mrs. Ball and the entire Ball family. I have fond memories of Dr. and Mrs. Ball, as their children and myself were piano students of Mrs. Alice Creasy Wright.*

**Martha Brown Morrison** - January 11, 2020 at 09:34 PM

LD

“ *Dear Sister Ball:*

*We are so sorry for your loss. May the memories of Dr. Ball comfort you during this time. Continue to stay sweet and bless.*

*Sincerely,*

*Keith and Lucinda Dunbar*



**Lucinda Dunbar** - January 11, 2020 at 08:32 PM

AS

“ *My condolences to the entire Ball Family. May God continue to bless you and keep you ~ Angie Scott*

**Angie Scott** - January 11, 2020 at 07:29 PM

TB

“ Terry Babylon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D..



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**Terry Babylon** - January 11, 2020 at 07:14 PM

ST

“ Bro. Ball was a great leader and disciple for the Lord. He love the lord and his family to the fullest. He leaving a great lesson to follow and learn behind.

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**Sis Mary Thomas** - January 11, 2020 at 07:02 PM

TT

“ Bro. Ball, a mentor a beacon and a man of faith. A blessing to all those around him. You will be sorely missed. Thank you for everything you taught us. Rest in peace.

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**Tavares Tukes** - January 10, 2020 at 09:20 PM

MB

Dr. Ball a man of character, and wisdom ; faith, thank you. Rest In Peace. 🙏🙏🙏

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**Marvin Bryant** - January 10, 2020 at 09:34 PM

GS

“ Gail Stephens sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Wesley James Ball M.D.



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**Gail Stephens** - January 09, 2020 at 06:54 PM

LH

“ Dr. Ball was always a gentleman and whenever he came on the floor to see his patients, Dr. Ball always spoke and asked how you were doing. Thanks, Dr. Ball for all your years of caring, compassion and integrity. R.I.P. 🙏🏻🙏🏻

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**Linda Harris** - January 09, 2020 at 06:11 PM