



Walter Dawson Durden JR

June 20, 1932 - January 20, 2025

Walter Dawson Durden, Jr., passed away peacefully in the presence of his beloved daughter while watching the timeless classic “Casablanca,” one of his favorite films. He was 92.

Dawson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 29, 1932, to Walter Dawson Durden and Mary Bobo Gibson Durden. He grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating from North Fulton High School in 1953. He then studied medicine at Emory University Medical School on an Army scholarship. During this time he met and married the love of his life, Barbara Ann Queener of Wilmington, Delaware, in 1956. He affectionately referred to her as “Queenie” and they remained married until her passing in 2022.

Dawson and Barbara lived in multiple cities during his time in the military; he also served a year in Vietnam in 1963-1964. A daughter, Catherine, was born in San Francisco in 1958, followed by a son, David, in Philadelphia in 1965. The family eventually settled in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where Dawson went into private practice as a gastroenterologist in Honolulu, Hawaii.

During the second half of life, Dawson's Christian faith played an increasingly important role in his life. He enjoyed fellowship and exchange with people from various walks of life and from all over the world. He was fond of reciting Psalm 23.

Dawson spent his final years in his home in Tallahassee, Florida, with Queenie and in the care of his daughter, Cathy, and nearby son, David, and his family. He was well cared for and made as comfortable as possible during this time.

Tender, kind, compassionate and loving, Dawson had a winning smile and a good sense of humor. He enjoyed recounting history, telling stories and hearing children laugh. He loved and cared for his family very much and will be missed.

Dawson was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (2022) and only brother, Milner Gibson Durden (2024). He is survived by his daughter, Cathy, his son, David (Aimee), and grandchildren: David Junior, Jonathan, and Amanda.

Like Queenie, Dawson requested a simple cremation and no service. The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Darlene, his wonderful caregiver, as well as Big Bend Hospice, and the caring doctors, nurses, and staff at Westminster Oaks, Tallahassee, and also to Young-fulford for their

services.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Dr. Durden treated me in the early seventies when I was 14 years old. I had undiagnosed ulcerative colitis, shredded colon top to bottom that had perforated, peritonitis shutting down my organs, hours from death. By some miracle, my mother found Dr. Durden, who had me transferred from Castle to Straub hospital and called in Surgeon James Cherry. He told my mother that I was unlikely to survive; he continued telling her that for the next several weeks. So, I had Dr. Cherry, and I named Dr. Durden "Dr. Apples", due to the aroma from his pipe (yes, he did smoke a pipe way back then!) Dr. Apples' quick action, without a doubt, saved my life. He continued to be my gastroenterologist into my adulthood. He was the sweetest man ever and I loved and admired him. I am so sorry for your loss of this precious man. Kindest regards, Sheri Frazier

Sheri Frazier - June 16, 2025 at 03:35 AM

CB

Sheri, this is Dr. Apple's :-) daughter, Cathy. I'm only now seeing your sweet comments. It's been almost a year since he passed. Thank you so much for sharing your story. I had no idea. It's brought tears to me eyes... May you continue in good health!

Catherine Beaton - January 16 at 01:35 PM

PM

“ When I think of Dawson and his life, the words "Well done, my good and faithful servant" comes to mind. He finished the Race. He was an inspiration to me as well as to so many, many others. I know he loved his wife, his children and his grandchildren with all his heart. My deepest condolences to Cathy and David.

Patricia Meafua - March 06, 2025 at 10:11 PM

CB

Thank you, Patty. Much appreciated!

Catherine Beaton - January 16 at 01:34 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Dawson Durden JR.*



March 06, 2025 at 08:28 AM

SD

“ His wife Barbara Durden once told me about how she met him while she was an elementary school teacher in Georgia. She was invited by one of her friends to attend a dance and get together and met him there and fell in love with him. She was a teacher at the time and he was in medical school. And she knew that he was the one and they became life long soul mates. At the time they met in Atlanta, she was working at an elementary school where she would work tirelessly helping to tutor children outside of the classroom who needed extra help learning the material. His wife Barbara had graduated from the University of Tennessee in the hopes, she had said, of being either a librarian or a teacher. Dawson was a loving and protective husband to her, knowing her idealistic ways. They complimented each other, giving balance to each other's lives in many ways. She had often told me of how shy she was as a child and that her family moved often and she changed schools often. However, she was able to outgrow this to some extent as she became more religious and was loved by many including her sorority sisters at University of Tennessee and also became Miss University of Tennessee. She always kept her idealistic ways and Dawson was always protective of that, sheltering her as much as he could. He was a kind, loving husband and caring, loving grandfather and he will be missed.

Supawan Durden - March 02, 2025 at 08:09 PM

SD

“ *Walter Dawson Durden was a kind-hearted man who loved his grandchildren and loved spending time with them. He liked to share his knowledge and readings of Bible passages with us. He shared his memories of his childhood growing up in New Orleans and how he grew up near the Audubon Zoo. He talked about his love for singing as a youth. And he had a personality and warm smile that made him likable to anyone who met him. He is now up in heaven joined with his wife Barbara Durden. They were both loving, caring grandparents.*

Supawan Durden - March 02, 2025 at 07:02 PM

SD

“ *8 files added to the album Dawson Durden Photos*



Supawan Durden - March 02, 2025 at 06:23 PM

DD

“ 15 files added to the album Dawson Durden Photos



Dawson Durden - February 27, 2025 at 05:35 PM