



Ernest Nolan Brownlee, Jr.

May 13, 1952 - June 19, 2018

Dr. Ernest Nolan Brownlee Jr peacefully passed away on the evening of June 19, 2018, in Arlington, TX, at the age of 66. He was born to Mr. Ernest Brownlee and Mrs. Rebecca Brownlee (née Pierce), in Dallas, TX on May 13, 1952. He married Susan Sturdivan on June 8, 1974, with whom he shared over 40 years of his life. Ernest is survived by his spouse Susan; his sister, Kathi [Richard] Sale; and his children, Kristi [Jesse] Thrasher and Ernest III. He was preceded in death by his sister Karen Baccellieri and his parents. Ernest was a resident of Sunnyvale, TX for most of his adult life, where he owned a small ranch and horse farm. He moved to Arlington, TX to better accommodate his need for continued medical care and oversight. Ernest was a physician who practiced psychiatric medicine in North Texas for over 35 years. He graduated from Dallas Baptist University, trained at University of Texas Medical Branch, and completed his residency at Timberlawn Hospital. He was among the many early LGBTQ+ allies in North Texas psychiatric medicine, and made efforts to instill in his peers the principle that compassion is the most impactful substance that a doctor can prescribe. A graveside service will be held Sunday, June 24, 2018, at Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery in Dallas at 2:00 PM in the Garden of Compassion. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brain Science Foundation at: <https://www.brainsciencefoundation.org/donate/> The family would like extend its gratitude to Arlington Villa for the quality of care that they provided for Ernest in his final days.

Comments



“ You were right Dr. B. I was 19 with trauma that i could not see past. I was difficult, broken, and hopeless. Others gave up on me. My goal was to bail out of this world. God used you to intervene on so many levels. I cannot really express the gratitude for you rising to your calling. I can say that our conversations play so often in my mind. I learned how strong I really am. I learned the power of faith, hope, and speaking God's Truth no matter what. Four beautiful kids. "One day, you'll get married and have a lot of kids. You'll have a boy and name him after me." Ok - you were wrong about that .. I had four girls.. :) The first time you said that, I was tied to a bed- fighting with everything I had. I thought you were crazy! That line repeated over and over again. I know your in heaven. I know your playing the piano, praising Our Father. Thank you! Elidia

Elidia Louise Lofton - March 24, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ My dear mentor who pushed me, kicking and screaming, into ” the field” because you said I had special gifts of discernment and could deal gently with all truths not seen. I just now found out you slipped the bonds of this life for the one you knew without a doubt waits for us, a joyful eternal time of knowing, not learning, with our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. You were a shining example of the very best of the spiritual self, yet you helped all who needed you with GRAND EXPERTISE without hesitating to see who a new admission’s insurer was or if they were Medicaid admissions on your on-call schedule. During my time of learning from you, I saw you so devoted to research clinical trials, to new treatment modalities, and every day was a fresh new beginning in your world. Never jaded or cynical, never too busy to answer a question- OR- ask a few difficult ones yourself. I prayed so that the brain cancer would be banished, that you would survive and thrive.. Prayed because I KNEW the world needed you more than there are words. Prayed because you asked us to please pray for your healing because you had so much work you wanted to accomplish. You and God had other plans after the first surgery, so my grief is for the loss of all that you were when you walked through this world, a minister, a scholar, teacher, student always learning and growing, a most nurturing spirit to all of us who were trying to follow in your footsteps every fifth step or so if we were lucky. I remember your love for animals, so like mine. Your dogs, your horses, and the story you told me one night in an ice storm during Christmas when we were watching a blue moon rise. You told me about your magnificent stallion, and of your love for him and his trust in you, and how his heart was so much larger than other stallions his size. You shed tears, all those years later, because he died with your arms around his neck, cradling his beautiful head. You understood that love is not a feeling, it’s the act of extending one’s self for the betterment of animals and other people, not ourselves. YOU were the one with the ” biggest heart”, and I recall trying to tell you so through my tears. Just one of many very unusual chats, so open, honest, natural between two friends and colleagues. I hope, as I age, if there are many more years in which to ” age”, that I never forget one single thing you taught me, or showed me by not saying a word, just silent in prayers and compassion. For his beloved wife, Susan, his ” Susy”, he loved you with every part of his DNA and spirit, and I know he’s watching over you tenderly now, too. Look for your Ernie, he’ll be there in the bird’s call early in the AM, in the wildflowers, in the moon. He loved the moon and stars, :). I will never ever understand why Dr. B had to be the one stricken with such a debilitating and ultimately, life- ending brain illness. His work has helped so many people, literally more than one generation have been helped, either as his students, his clients, his research participants, or through his steadfast and fierce love for God; probably, through a combination of more than one facet of a personality that had more brilliant facets than the most perfect diamond nature ever made. His genius burned so brightly and we were all the better for knowing just fractions of it. I wish I’d been able to work with him after I graduated, but that’s when the brain monster came back around. He fought such a valiant fight, Susan, he fought his last battle with you and for you, to stay with his one true love, even if he’d never worked again in his life’s magnificent obsession. The fight was worth the struggles and the pain because you were there, his soul mate. We shall not despair, for we who believe in Heaven and have Jesus as our personal Savior will see him again one fine day that never ends... In God’s time. I’ll leave you with the last question he ever asked me, for this is the true essence of Dr. Ernest Brownlee’s gifts in asking profound questions in the most

offhanded ways: " What's a sunset worth if you only have *one more*

Amanda Turnock - September 10, 2019 at 01:49 PM



“ An incredible servant of God & Manificent Doctor! I know you are talking with Dr. Minirth & Dr. Brian Newman with Jesus by your side's...I look forward to seeing you all again at our Lord & Master Jesus Christ feet

Linda Smith - April 03, 2019 at 12:49 AM



“ Dr. B, you were the best doctor I ever had. It breaks my heart to have you go, but I know you are in a better place. You were such a kind and compassionate person. I will never forget the day that I met you. I know you impacted so many lives. You helped me through so many difficult times. I will always look up to you. Matt

Matthew Davis - June 30, 2018 at 04:09 PM



“ So very sorry to learn of Ernie's passing and especially of the pain he suffered during his last years. I knew Ernie since elementary school and through high school. He was a delightful person in youth and i am sure that this trait remained throughout his life. My condolences to his family.

Debbie McDaniel Murray - June 25, 2018 at 03:35 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dr. Brownlees's passing. I was a teacher at Sunnyvale and enjoyed having Kristi and Trey for students. Prayers for the family members in the passing of this sweet man.

Julie Zettler - June 24, 2018 at 11:18 PM



“ I could not have asked for a better friend, in high school and as we started our family's. We spent the Summer of 70 in Hermiston Oregon, taking care of his uncles church. Ernie loved the Lord and was able to reach others.

David Feagan - June 24, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ Ernie was a fellow Bryan Adams Cougar that we shared several classes together and enjoyed many laughs with. May you rest in peace and comfort to the family. Sincerely,
James Webb
Brenda (Fletcher) Webb

James Webb - June 23, 2018 at 08:46 AM



“ I knew Ernie at Bryan Adams High School and we had several classes together. He was always kind, sweet and happy, good looking but humble and generous. He was a great cheerleader and funny in shows and plays. I am proud of his accomplishments and his life well lived. Condolences to his family.

Katie Cook Martin - June 22, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ When I think of you Ernie, I think of so many things. You were a kind, gentle, caring, loving, funny, and noble man. From our days together in “Infancy” in high school, to the last time we embraced, I will cherish my memories of you. You are free from your suffering and your spirit is free to soar in the heavens. Be at peace my friend.

Gaylan Grant - June 22, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ You always made me laugh as I gave you piano lessons. You are a treasure.

Betty Bickle Bucher - June 22, 2018 at 11:25 AM



“ May you rip Ernie. You impacted more lives than you know. Will never forget your kindness and friendship .

Cathy McKeever - June 22, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ Rest In Peace, Ernie. I hope you know how much you were loved. We will miss you.

Jo Carol Cummings Slaughter - June 21, 2018 at 08:09 PM