



Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.

February 29, 1932 - September 18, 2025

Dr. James O. Morphis, Jr., a beloved pediatrician, devoted husband, father, and friend, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2025, at the age of 93.

Born on February 29, 1932, in Greensboro, North Carolina, Dr. Morphis was the son of the late James Oscar and Jessie Swaim Morphis. After graduating from Guilford College, he earned his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine. He completed his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and then went to South Dakota, where he served on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and then returned to Duke for his pediatric residency, where he served as Chief Resident.

In 1964, Dr. Morphis and his wife, Isobel Thayer Morphis, moved to Hartsville, South Carolina, where he established his pediatric practice. For more than 50 years, he cared for generations of children with skill, kindness, and a steady hand, leaving a lasting mark on countless families. He also served as Medical Director of the Thad E. Saleeby Center for fifty years and was an active member of the South Carolina Academy of Pediatrics. His tireless service to the community made him both a trusted physician and a cherished community member. He was named Citizen of the Year, as well as the recipient of the Order of the Palmetto.

Beyond his practice, Dr. Morphis was a proud and dedicated team doctor to

the Hartsville Red Fox football team, a role he treasured for many years. He was also a man of many passions — he loved golf, tennis, cooking, hunting, fishing, gardening, football, and reading. He found joy in the simple pleasures of life, from growing HUGE pumpkins and crawfish to enjoying fishing at Ocean Isle Beach to sharing meals with family and friends.

A man of faith, Dr. Morphis was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church in Hartsville, where he found fellowship and strength.

Dr. Morphis was preceded in death by his loving wife of nearly 60 years, Isobel Thayer Morphis, as well as his sister, Dot Heritage, and brother Tom Morphis. He is survived by his sons, Clayton Grady Morphis of Shallotte, NC, and James O. Morphis III (Dr. Beth Johnson Morphis) of Hartsville, SC, as well as his grandchildren Jordan Thayer Morphis, Clayton Grady Morphis, Jr, Jessie Seluda Morphis, and Isobel McNair Morphis, and his great-granddaughter Riley Thayer Bruce, all of whom he adored. He also leaves behind his beloved cats, Lukie, Bullseye, and Vinnie Vango, as well as many special friends who enriched his life.

Dr. Morphis will be remembered for his generosity, storytelling, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others. His legacy will continue to live on in the countless lives he touched as a physician, mentor, father, and friend.

A funeral service to honor his life will be held at 4 o'clock on Monday, September 22, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church, with The Rev. Ashely Cheek officiating. The family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

A gathering of friends and family will also be held at 4:30 pm on Sunday, September 21, at The Farm, 3042 Underground Branch Road, Hartsville, SC, and all are welcome to come and celebrate Jim's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his honor to First Presbyterian Church, 213 W. Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550, or Hartsville High School Athletics, 701 Lewellen Ave, Hartsville, SC 29550.

The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the family.

Previous Events

A Gathering of Friends

SEP **21**. 4:30 PM (ET)

The Farm
3042 Underground Branch Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Funeral Service

SEP **22**. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
213 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - September 21, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BF

Beautiful tribute

Brenda Floyd - September 22, 2025 at 12:32 PM

KW

Will be missed

Ken Wilkes - September 27, 2025 at 10:47 PM

RA

“ *Robert R Andrews lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Robert R Andrews - December 18, 2025 at 04:40 PM

FS

“ Faye Stinson lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Faye Stinson - September 24, 2025 at 02:43 PM

AN

“ Jamie and family, so very sorry to hear about your dad. Sending hugs and prayers for all. Angie and Tim Norris



Angela Norris - September 24, 2025 at 01:08 PM

PY

“ Dr Morphis was a blessing to so many of us! Caring for our children, loving life & people! Jamie and family, you all are in my prayers!



Phyllis Yarborough - September 24, 2025 at 01:06 PM

AB

“ Angie Bateman lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Angie Bateman - September 23, 2025 at 10:39 AM

MG

“ Sending our condolences to the family! May God give you peace and comfort today and the days ahead!



Marcia Rhyne, Hunter, Deklan & Garyn - September 23, 2025 at 10:26 AM

MG

“ He was the Best ❤️ Praying that will God bless his family with the strength and comfort during this time and peace in the days to come 🙏 Marie Gardner ❤️



Marie Gardner - September 22, 2025 at 10:49 PM

HG

“ What a truly great man. Our family owes him so much. Hartsville was blessed to have his skills, professionalism, and dedication. I know how much he was valued and appreciated by his peers, far beyond Darlington county and South Carolina. Thank you Dr. Morphis, and may God bless your family and preserve your memory.
Hal Gaymon

Hal Gaymon - September 22, 2025 at 02:59 PM

SS

“ Stephanie Sturkie lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Stephanie Sturkie - September 22, 2025 at 02:29 PM

JM

“ With much love and respect, we will miss you, Doc! Thanks for the opportunity to work with you.

Joel McCall - September 22, 2025 at 02:08 PM

BS

“ Billie Sikes lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Billie Sikes - September 22, 2025 at 01:58 PM

DD

“ Dr. Morphis was a highly respected pediatrician here in Hartsville and throughout the state for his clinical knowledge and skills. He touched many families and will leave a lasting legacy of healing. He was an honored friend and colleague for many years and he will be missed.

Dr William Davis - September 22, 2025 at 01:28 PM

CM

“ Carolyn Millsaps lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Carolyn Millsaps - September 22, 2025 at 01:18 PM

AW

“ ALICE COATES FUNDERBURK WATFORD
*lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar
Morphis Jr.*



ALICE COATES FUNDERBURK WATFORD - September 22, 2025 at 11:28 AM

BH

“ *Jamie and family- Sending condolences to
you all. Great memories of your dad treating
my children and getting to know him while
working at Byerly. Prayers for you in the days
ahead.*



Bobbie Huggins - September 22, 2025 at 10:06 AM

AB

“ *Amy Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Dr.
James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Amy Blackburn - September 21, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JG

“ Clay and Jamie, our condolences to you , we were so saddened to learn of your dad’s passing. There are not enough words to express what a monument your dad was, the Number 1 pediatrician, humanitarian, and most of all to those he loved a best friend! He cared for our daughter Ashley for sixteen years, with always a positive outcome. We worked together at old Byerly for fourteen years! Had many special meals at your home, at Ocean Isle and in Shallot!! Best seafood boil always, taught me how to do it!! With deepest sympathy and tons of love to the greatest dad you could ever have!! Cherish those memories as we will! Joyce and Butch Gardner



Joyce Gardner - September 21, 2025 at 06:02 PM

ML

Sorry to hear of Dr. Jim Morphis passing. Prayers for the family

Mitchell and Doris Lisenby - September 21, 2025 at 06:49 PM

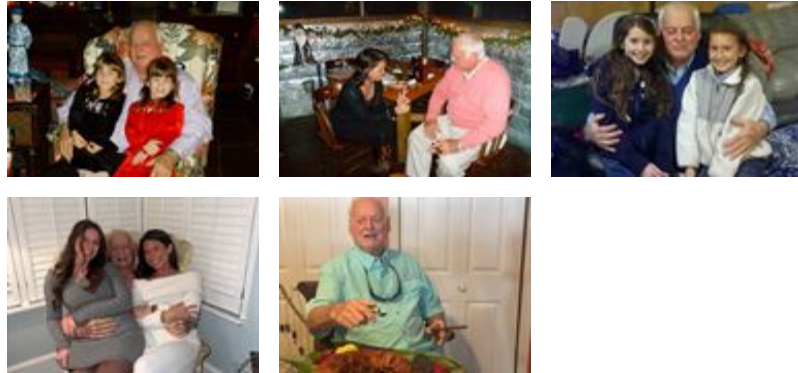
KL

“ What a remarkable life he was blessed. Prayers to this remarkable family who shared their lives in the Hartsville community for many years. Love and hugs to each of you. Kathy Lawhon

Kathy Lawhon - September 21, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ 26 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - September 21, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ Tammy Barefoot lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Tammy Barefoot - September 21, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ We were fortunate to have Dr.Morphis in Hartsville for he was a true blessing. He was the best Dr to my children with unmatched skill and compassion and he became a dear and cherished friend to our family.His gently manner and genuine heart made him more than a doctor-he was a gift to all who knew him. He will be deeply missed. My deepest sympathy to his family.



Ervin and Jackie Gibson

jackie Gibson - September 21, 2025 at 12:12 AM

RS

“ *Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Rebecca Skinner - September 20, 2025 at 10:24 PM

CD

“ *Cora Dial sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Cora Dial - September 20, 2025 at 08:19 PM

KM

“ *Kathryn Miller lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Kathryn Miller - September 20, 2025 at 03:22 PM

AS

“ Our love and prayers to the beautiful family of Dr. Jim Morphis. We will always remember Doc, and could not have entrusted anyone better than him to care for our son when he was a baby, and throughout his adolescence.

He was a Morphis baby! His medical knowledge, guidance, wisdom and friendship was always so comforting and appreciated! Thinking of you all, as you hold the many special memories close in your hearts forever!



Al, Melinda & Russ Sansbury - September 20, 2025 at 02:36 PM

MR

“ Words cannot describe what Dr. Morphis meant to the Hartsville community & to so many of us personally. If he called you friend, you had a friend for life! When the community needed more physicians, it was said give Dr Morphis a plane ticket & he'll recruit a physician! I send my prayers to the Morphis family as I sit here with a lump in my throat.

Rip Jim!

Mike Rast - September 20, 2025 at 02:22 PM

RH

“ Dr Morphis is particularly responsible for my life and career. Without Doc, my kidney diagnosis would have been overlooked and I may have died as an infant. Furthermore, when I tried to join the US Army, doctors noticed the scare on my left side where I had a kidney operation at 3 months old, which disqualified me from military service. Doc wrote a letter to the Department of Army that recommended clearances to join the Armed Forces. Thus, my life and career is made possible because of Doctor Morphis. Sir I Sincerely Thank You. Rest in Glory

Reggie Hayes

Reggie Hayes - September 20, 2025 at 02:05 PM

LB

“ Laverne And Miriam Brown lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Laverne and Miriam Brown - September 20, 2025 at 12:47 PM

DM

“ Doug And Scarlett Mason lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Doug and Scarlett Mason - September 20, 2025 at 12:44 PM

AW

“ Anna Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



anna williams - September 20, 2025 at 12:28 PM

KS

“ Ken Scott lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Ken Scott - September 20, 2025 at 11:49 AM

RO

“ Robin lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Robin - September 20, 2025 at 11:45 AM

KA

“ Kaye Allen lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Kaye Allen - September 20, 2025 at 11:27 AM

RT

“ *Roberta Timmons sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Roberta Timmons - September 20, 2025 at 10:58 AM

RT

“ *To the family, I am so sorry for your loss. What a wonderful physician and loyal servant he was. He was my doctor as a teen, my son's doctor as a baby, a wonderful teacher to me when I worked as a nurse at Byerly hospital and also a "down the street neighbor" on 14th street for many years. God bless you all. He was a selfless man that enjoyed helping others, especially the HHS football team and the clients at the Thad Saleeby Center where I also worked part time as a nurse. He was deeply loved by all of the people that he served for so many years.*

Roberta Timmons - September 20, 2025 at 10:55 AM

JL

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family.*
Rodney and Judy Langley

judy Langley - September 20, 2025 at 10:24 AM

GG

“ *Prayers for family and friends of Dr. Morphis!*



Gene and Teresa Gibson - September 20, 2025 at 10:09 AM

CG

“ *Connee Gamble Grantham lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Connee Gamble Grantham - September 20, 2025 at 09:55 AM

AH

“ *Sending our love and prayers! We have lost a great humanitarian!*



Ann Hudson - September 20, 2025 at 09:39 AM

MJ

“ *Morphis Family,
I am truly sorry to hear of Dr. Morphis's passing. He was my pediatrician during my entire childhood. I am lifting your family in prayer. God is close to the broken hearted and lifts those crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

Megan Smith Johnson - September 20, 2025 at 09:26 AM

RW

“ *Ron Wall lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Ron Wall - September 20, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ I adored Dr Morphis and Izzy. He was my children’s doctor for many years and I so valued his wisdom and care. My prayers are with his family.
Marsha Odom



Marsha Odom - September 20, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ Ann Fulcher lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Ann Fulcher - September 20, 2025 at 08:17 AM



“ Cynthia G Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Cynthia G Gilbert - September 20, 2025 at 08:16 AM



Dr Morris was one of the most outstanding men that I have ever known. He took so much care for my two sons. May he rest in peace and join the angels.

Cynthia G Gilbert - September 20, 2025 at 08:17 AM

RJ

“ *My condolences & sincere prayers for the family!!*



Regina Jones - September 20, 2025 at 07:22 AM

AK

“ *Ann King lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Ann King - September 20, 2025 at 07:22 AM

LE

“ *Jim gave so much time, effort and energy to our community, especially his long life support to the youth and athletics. His legacy will live for generations. Our sincere prayers go out to the family.*



Larry Easterling - September 20, 2025 at 07:07 AM

SR

“ *Dr. Morphis was a highly respected and beloved pediatrician in the city of Hartsville. He will be long remembered here for all the good work that he did.*

Susan D. Reynolds - September 20, 2025 at 12:08 AM

JB

“ *Sending prayers.*



Judy Bryant - September 19, 2025 at 11:47 PM

TF

“ *Lighting a candle in memory of Dr. Morphine who treated my brothers and I when we moved to Hartsville in 1971. We are all retired now.*



Teresa H Fisher - September 19, 2025 at 11:23 PM



“ *Condolences on the loss of your beloved father Clay and Jamie. Dr. Morphis was the pediatrician for my brothers and me and a friend to the McDonald Family for decades. His memory will remain strong because he left a lasting legacy in Hartsville. Doc was truly a renaissance man of the highest order. RIP to a true legend.*

John McDonald

John McDonald - September 19, 2025 at 09:22 PM

CC

“ *Christel Copeland lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Christel Copeland - September 19, 2025 at 09:04 PM

LS

“ Clay and Jamie, I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He was a wonderful employer and friend and will definitely be missed. Sending love and prayers 🙏



Lavonde Smith - September 19, 2025 at 08:51 PM

BD

“ Clay & Jamie,
My sincere condolences to you and your families. Doc was such a fine man. May God be with y'all during this heartbreaking time.



Billy Dalrymple - September 19, 2025 at 08:25 PM

BR

“ My condolences.
Sorry for your loss.
Prayers for the family members and friends.
May God comfort you during this time.

Betty Sue Millsaps Ralley - September 19, 2025 at 07:37 PM

DG

“ Prayers for the family and friends. He took care of my Son and my Grandchildren. He will be missed.



Debra Gainey - September 19, 2025 at 07:29 PM

MM

“ Prayers for the Morphis family during this time. Dr. Jim was my pediatrician as well as my children’s.

Mary Hart Morrison - September 19, 2025 at 07:19 PM

KN

“ Kathy Norris lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Kathy Norris - September 19, 2025 at 07:15 PM

RM

“ Jamie and Clay, we are so very sorry for your loss. Dr Morphis was a great pediatrician for our children years ago and for many children in the Hartsville area. Prayers for you and your families during this difficult time.
Rodney and Kathy McFarland



Rodney and Kathy McFarland - September 19, 2025 at 06:47 PM

DH

“ I am so sorry for your loss! He was an amazing doctor. He took care of me up until I got married. Then, he took care of my children. Love and prayers for the family! He will be missed! Dana S. Hawkins

Dana Hawkins - September 19, 2025 at 06:28 PM

MF

“ *Michael & Laurie Folk lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Michael & Laurie Folk - September 19, 2025 at 06:27 PM

JP

“ *Dr. Morphis took great care of all three of our boys from the time they were born until they grew to be men. He was a wonderful caring physician and a friend to our family. We no longer live in Hartsville but our prayers will be lifted for the family.*
Jane and Forrest Putnam

Jane Putnam - September 19, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LJ

“ *Family...so sorry for your loss ...many good memories of working at the old Byerly with Dr. Morphis..be blessed*



Libby Jordan - September 19, 2025 at 06:20 PM

SA

“ *Sharon Autry lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Sharon Autry - September 19, 2025 at 06:20 PM

DM

“ Denise McLain lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Denise McLain - September 19, 2025 at 06:09 PM

JL

“ Dr Mirphis was a great Dr to all three of my children! Both the kids and I thought no one should take care of them except Dr Morphis! He was a well respected Dr and a true gentleman to all out town and will be missed! Love and prayers to all his family during this difficult time!

Judy and Marion Lane - September 19, 2025 at 06:06 PM

BH

“ Beverly Hooks lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Beverly Hooks - September 19, 2025 at 04:55 PM

KG

“ Kristie Howle Gardner lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.



Kristie Howle Gardner - September 19, 2025 at 04:54 PM



“ *Crystal Minnehan sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Crystal Minnehan - September 19, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AT

“ *I'm so sorry to see this...he was a great doctor to my children back in the day! He lived a full life and served Hartsville well. Prayers for the family.*

Abby and Allen Tyner - September 19, 2025 at 04:23 PM

PC

“ *Phillip And Donna Crocker lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Phillip and Donna Crocker - September 19, 2025 at 04:10 PM

CL

“ *Dr. Morphis was a great doctor and man. He was our children's doctor when they were young. Our prayers go out to all the family. May God comfort you all!*



Cathy and Gerald Lynch - September 19, 2025 at 04:00 PM

AS

“ *Angela & Bill Stokes lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Angela & Bill Stokes - September 19, 2025 at 03:59 PM

SC

“ *Susan Braddock Clemmons lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Oscar Morphis Jr.*



Susan Braddock Clemmons - September 19, 2025 at 03:45 PM

AS

“ *Praying for the Morphis family. He was my doctor until I was 18..An his daughter is my son doctor..great family...he will be truly missed...He was a great man. 🙏*

Alicia sloan - September 19, 2025 at 03:38 PM

DS

“ *My condolences to the family, he was a great physician and I will always be thankful for his care that he gave my two children, many years ago.*



Danny and Phoebe Stokes - September 19, 2025 at 03:35 PM

RW

“ Amy and I send love to Beth, Clay, and the entire family.

We've added them all to the Elim Methodist Church of Lamar prayer list, where I am the pastor.

Dr. Morphis was my first doctor, and his late wife, Issy was my mom's biggest golfing rival. Issy and mom made each other better golfers, and more loving and supportive friends.

Blessings!

Rev. Andy and Amy W. Williams, FNP-C

Rev. Andy Williams - September 19, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JW

“ So saddened to hear of Dr Morphis' passing. He was so good to our daughter and us. Brilliant doctor and friend to so many. Prayers for his family. God bless you all.

Joe, Deb, & Annagrace Wilkes - September 19, 2025 at 03:32 PM

BF

Condolences to the family. Good memories working with Dr. Morphis at Byerly Hospital.

Brenda Floyd - September 20, 2025 at 08:20 AM