

## Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.

April 28, 1934 - December 18, 2014

Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles, Jr., died Thursday, Dec. 18, peacefully at his home in Hartsville. Born in Ware Shoals, S.C., on April 28, 1934, he was the son of the late Dr. Melvin Bond Nickles, Sr., and Delia Turner Nickles. Dr. Nickles was predeceased by his wife of nearly 57 years, Nancy Davis Nickles, and is survived by son Melvin Bond Nickles III and his wife Lynn, of Columbia; son William Alexander Nickles and his wife Mary, of Anderson; and five grandchildren, Jacqueline Blake Nickles and Mary McCallum Nickles, of Anderson; and Sarah Caroline Nickles, Davis Bond Nickles, and William McGirt Nickles, of Columbia.

Dr. Nickles was a dedicated servant-leader to the community of Hartsville for more than 50 years, primarily as a family-practice physician but also in the fields of finance, church leadership, corporate and occupational medicine, and civic involvement. He treated hundreds of patients through the years, many of whom maintained their loyalty for the duration of his career, which began in 1964 and ended shortly before his death. He earned a reputation as a top-notch diagnostician, and his keen instincts and careful attention to patient symptoms enabled him to see beyond the results of the best medical machinery.

Dr. Nickles' long and varied medical career included a 28-year stint as Sonoco Products Company's Medical Director, a contractual position charged with overseeing the medical affairs of Sonoco's entire workforce worldwide. In addition to his contract work with Sonoco, he was the leading contract

physician for most of the Hartsville area's top employers, including Progress Energy, Stingray Boats, Talley Metals, A.O. Smith, MarMac Wire, the County of Darlington, the City of Hartsville, Darlington County School System, and others.

Dr. Nickles attended Henry Laurens High School in Laurens, S.C., and compiled an excellent scholastic record that afforded him the opportunity to skip his senior year and enroll at Clemson University as a 17-year-old freshman. Despite multiple appeals to his high school after earning degrees from both Clemson and the Medical University of South Carolina, he never received a diploma or a certificate of achievement, and he delighted in his status as a self-proclaimed "high school dropout."

A proud member of Clemson's Class of 1955, Dr. Nickles was one of only five in the school's final all-military class to receive the honor of Distinguished Military Graduate. Company Commander of the Marching Band, he also was a member of the National Society of Scabard & Blade and earned membership into the Blue Key Honor Fraternity. He remained close to the University throughout his lifetime, which included service as a member of the Board of Visitors in 1984. He also was a longtime supporter of IPTAY, the University's fundraising organization for athletics, and was a frequent and enthusiastic attendee of football games and other athletic events on campus. Dr. Nickles completed his formal medical education at MUSC and was President of the student body his final year, 1958-59. He served his residency in internal medicine there in 1963-64 and was a member of the school's Board of Visitors in 1975.

After medical school, Dr. Nickles served two years as a Captain in the U.S. Army's Medical Corps at Fort McLellan, Ala. There, at Noble Army Hospital, he was named Chief of the Outpatient Department and received a Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Service.

A member of the Board of Directors of Hartsville's First Carolina National Bank for 11 years, Dr. Nickles accepted an invitation to serve as the bank's Interim President in 1981, a time of complex and turbulent movement in the banking

industry. As part of his brief tenure, he led a delegation to Washington, D.C., where they were granted an audience with U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, who provided guidance in navigating through difficult regulatory issues.

Among the other boards that Dr. Nickles served: Byerly Hospital (Trustee, 1978-82); Pee Dee Area Big Brothers of America (Director, 1977); S.C. DHEC Health Care Advisory Board (1974); Thomas Hart Academy (Director, 1976-80); South Carolina National Bank (Director, 1984-85); S.C. Department of Social Services (Commissioner, from 6th Congressional District, 1985-89); and Bank of America, Hartsville (Advisor, 1985-97).

The Hartsville Rotary Club recognized him as its 2013 Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Nickles enjoyed hunting and fishing of all kinds and was especially content among the company of fellow outdoorsmen. He was a gracious and lively host to the many guests who visited "the Barn," an old tobacco barn he converted into a lakeside hunting lodge at the family farm in Brittons Neck, S.C. He was active in many conservation and wild-game organizations and was among the group that brought the first National Wild Turkey Federation chapter to South Carolina.

An avid and skilled woodworker, Dr. Nickles crafted tables, shelves, picture frames and other pieces that are abundantly displayed in the family home. When a dear friend's prize cherry tree was mistakenly cut down, he used a lathe to create a pair of candlesticks from the discarded wood and presented them to his friend.

A descendant of a long line of Presbyterian ministers, Dr. Nickles held to this tradition of faith throughout his life and ensured that his family likewise would be so blessed. He served four terms of office as deacon and elder at Hartsville's First Presbyterian Church and, just this fall, received the honor of Elder Emeritus.

A memorial service will be held in Hartsville at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the sanctuary of Hartsville's First Presbyterian Church, 213 West Home Avenue. The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Sansbury will officiate. The family will receive

friends following the service in the church narthex, and private burial will take place in Marion County at 3 p.m. A message of condolence may be sent online via the Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home page, [bpafuneralhome.net](http://bpafuneralhome.net), or to the Nickles residence, 515 Dunlap Drive, Hartsville, SC, 29550. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the following organizations: Clemson University Foundation (designated: Class of 1955 Clemson Corps Endowment), P.O. Box 1889, Clemson, S.C. 29633; National Wild Turkey Federation, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, S.C. 29824; First Presbyterian Church, 213 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, S.C. 29550.

# Cemetery Details

## Centenary United Methodist Church Cemetery

Marion, SC

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
213 West Home Avenue  
Hartsville, SC

## Visitation

DEC 20. 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
213 West Home Avenue  
Hartsville, SC

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ Robert Andrews lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Robert Andrews - June 26, 2025 at 05:09 AM

CT

“ Cynthia Thompson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Cynthia Thompson - January 31, 2015 at 02:31 PM

CT

Was out of town for the holidays and missed your funeral, but will always remember your many kindnesses to me and to my family. You were a great Boss and Friend. We will continue to pray for your family.  
Cindy

Cynthia Thompson - January 31, 2015 at 02:35 PM

CG

“ Clipper Gandy lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



clipper gandy - December 30, 2014 at 09:11 PM



“ You will be missed.



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**Lesley Matthews** - December 23, 2014 at 12:07 PM

BK

“ Barbara & Frank King lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



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**Barbara & Frank King** - December 22, 2014 at 11:10 AM

BR

“ Becky Robinson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



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**Becky Robinson** - December 20, 2014 at 10:24 PM

NR

“ Nichole Robinson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



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**Nichole Robinson** - December 20, 2014 at 10:22 PM

JB

“ Johnny And Suzanne Beasley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Johnny and Suzanne Beasley - December 20, 2014 at 07:32 PM

RP

“ Rayford & Carolyn Pait lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Rayford & Carolyn Pait - December 20, 2014 at 08:44 AM

JR

“ Jack & Karen Rhyne lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Jack & Karen Rhyne - December 20, 2014 at 06:56 AM

SH

“ Sharon Shirley Howle lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Sharon Shirley Howle - December 20, 2014 at 06:38 AM

GO

“ *Dr Nickles was a friend among friends Thoughts and prayers go out to this wonderful Family*

**Grady O'Neal** - December 19, 2014 at 11:15 PM

KG

“ *Kent And Linda Watson Gainey lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



**Kent and Linda Watson Gainey** - December 19, 2014 at 10:49 PM

JL

“ *Dr Nickles was always so friendly. I enjoyed spending time with him and the Richardsons in Brittons Neck. He was also my doctor during my employment at Sonoco. He and his wife touched many many lives.*

**Jonathan Lee** - December 19, 2014 at 09:51 PM

BB

“ *Bobby And Violet Bragdon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



**bobby and violet bragdon** - December 19, 2014 at 06:49 PM

TB

“ Tony Barber lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Tony Barber - December 19, 2014 at 02:33 PM

TB

Bubba was a great friend. I am lucky to have met and to have known he and Nancy. Great physician, friend, husband and father. He will be missed.

Tony Barber - December 19, 2014 at 02:35 PM

GO

“ Greg Outlaw lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Greg Outlaw - December 19, 2014 at 02:17 PM

LE

“ Bond and Will, I hope that you know how much your father was loved and respected in our community. He is now at peace. I hope that God will give you peace during this time. Grady and I will have you in our prayers.



Linda Edwards - December 19, 2014 at 01:17 PM

CN

“ Chris And Rhonda Norton lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Chris and Rhonda Norton - December 19, 2014 at 01:13 PM

SK

“ Great man, Doctor and huge supporter of Sonoco EMS and Fire Dept. Our lose, Heavens gain. Love you Bubba. Me and my troops won't forget yiou.


sammy king - December 19, 2014 at 11:54 AM

 Gregory Armstrong

“ Gregory Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Gregory Armstrong - December 19, 2014 at 10:44 AM

 Gregory Armstor

Always have been grateful to Bubba....for helping me in a time of need 10 years ago. He helped me come out on the other side of the ashes....a better person.

Gregory Armstrong - December 19, 2014 at 10:46 AM

AG

“ Anita Gainey-Hicks lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Anita Gainey-Hicks - December 19, 2014 at 10:10 AM

LT

“ Linda Thompson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Linda Thompson - December 19, 2014 at 10:03 AM

AG

“ Angie Gainey lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Angie Gainey - December 19, 2014 at 08:32 AM

AG

*You will be missed!!*

Angie Gainey - December 19, 2014 at 08:34 AM

DS

“ Donna D. Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Donna D. Sansbury - December 19, 2014 at 05:11 AM

AJ

“ Al & Mindy James lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Al & Mindy James - December 19, 2014 at 05:00 AM

AH

“ Dr. Nickles, Hartsville will miss you! I will miss you! Now go join your wife, your love, in Heaven!! Your deed is done, your colleagues will take it from here! Well done sir!



Allen Haynes - December 19, 2014 at 01:42 AM

GG

“ Geraldine Jordan Griggs lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Geraldine Jordan Griggs - December 19, 2014 at 01:07 AM

DT

“ *David and Tona Tedder*



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**David and Tona Tedder** - December 18, 2014 at 11:25 PM

RK

“ *DR. NICKLES WILL BE MISSED BY ALL. I HAVE BEEN GOING TO HIM SINCE HE CAME TOWN. HE WAS NOT ONLY MY DOCTOR BUT MY BEST FRIEND. HE WAS LIKE A FATHER FIGURE TO ME . WHEN I NEEDED HELP OR JUST SOMEONE TO TALK TO HE WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE TO LISTEN. MY PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILY.*

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**RAEFORD KIRVEN** - December 18, 2014 at 10:39 PM

MN

“ *My condolences to the family of Bubba, Dr. Nickles, who will be remembered by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed as is his beautiful wife, Nancy, so recently departed. I hope he knew just how much he meant to Hartsville.*

*Marilyn V. Newsome*

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**Marilyn Newsome** - December 18, 2014 at 10:26 PM

BD

“ *Betty Davis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Betty Davis** - December 18, 2014 at 10:05 PM

JG

“ *Bond and Will,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Doc was a special friend to me and my family. He has been our doctor since he first came to Hartsville. I will truly miss him.  
I will always remember the good times I had filming your football games at Thomas Hart.  
God bless you and your families.  
Jimmy Gregory*

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**Jimmy Gregory** - December 18, 2014 at 09:39 PM

CW

“ *Carl And Susan Watkins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Carl and Susan Watkins** - December 18, 2014 at 09:32 PM

MS

“ *Myrtle Stokes lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Myrtle Stokes** - December 18, 2014 at 08:44 PM

PJ

“ Pat & Robert James lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Pat & Robert James - December 18, 2014 at 07:40 PM

PJ

Thanks for all the great years working with you Dr. Bubba. You may be gone but will never be forgotten. Bond, Will and family, all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Pat James - December 18, 2014 at 07:42 PM

TF

“ Tommy Thomas And Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Tommy Thomas and Family - December 18, 2014 at 07:10 PM

CN

Such a great man, Dr. Nickles you will be missed by so many. God has you in his mansion! No more cancer or pain. Bless u, Amen

Candace Dempsey Norton - December 18, 2014 at 07:20 PM

LC

“ Lynn B. Caddell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Lynn B. Caddell - December 18, 2014 at 06:50 PM

WS

“ Wanda & Claude Stroud lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



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**Wanda & Claude Stroud** - December 18, 2014 at 06:42 PM

WS

*He was with us when our Mother left this home to move on to her heavenly home. So thankful for the kindness and respect we were shown by Dr. Nickles. May you now Rest in Peace in your heavenly home. Thanks again.*

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**Wanda & Claude Stroud** - December 18, 2014 at 06:45 PM

NM

*Dr Nickles was my Dr from the time he first came to Hartsville. I never went to him that he didn't find out what was wrong with me or would refer me to someone else. When he became sick he would still see me & still had that little smile on his face.my prayers are with his family. You can be proud of the legacy he has left you & our town. RIP Dr Nickles, you were loved by many Nancy Morrison.*

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**Nancy Morrison** - December 18, 2014 at 11:31 PM

LM

“ Will, Bond and families you will all be in my thoughts and prayers. Both of your parents were such fine people and I don't remember a time not knowing who they were. Have such special memories from church.

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**Leslie Miller** - December 18, 2014 at 06:38 PM

KN

“ *Kathy Norris lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Kathy Norris** - December 18, 2014 at 06:09 PM

GC

“ *Gail W. Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Dr, Melvin Bond Nickles Jr.*

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**Gail W. Cassidy** - December 18, 2014 at 05:28 PM

RM

“ *Ronnie And Tanya McDonald lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Ronnie and Tanya McDonald** - December 18, 2014 at 05:16 PM

GB

“ *Gloria And Frank Butler lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**gloria and frank butler** - December 18, 2014 at 05:12 PM

JC

“ John Crawford lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



John Crawford - December 18, 2014 at 05:07 PM

DH

“ God speed Dr. Nickles-your memory will live on in the many lives you touched.



Delores Hickey - December 18, 2014 at 04:05 PM

LH

“ LELAND HUGGINS lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



LELAND HUGGINS - December 18, 2014 at 03:59 PM

CS

“ Charles And Lavonde Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.



Charles and Lavonde Smith - December 18, 2014 at 03:55 PM

MK

“ *Mr & Mrs William Kelly lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Mr & Mrs William Kelly** - December 18, 2014 at 03:43 PM



“ *So sad to hear this. He was such a sweet man. He will be greatly missed by many.*



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**KJ Elmore** - December 18, 2014 at 03:39 PM

CL

“ *Carol Lynn lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Carol Lynn** - December 18, 2014 at 03:33 PM

JM

“ *JOHNNY AND DENISE MCLAIN lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**JOHNNY AND DENISE MCLAIN** - December 18, 2014 at 03:11 PM

KI

“ *Such a wonderful person. He will be missed by many. Prayers for the family.*

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**KimWright** - December 18, 2014 at 03:07 PM

BM

“ *Brian And Kathy Mcfarland lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Brian and Kathy Mcfarland** - December 18, 2014 at 02:19 PM

FB

“ *Freddie And Brenda Beasley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Freddie and Brenda Beasley** - December 18, 2014 at 02:11 PM

JC

“ *JULIA CRAWFORD lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**JULIA CRAWFORD** - December 18, 2014 at 01:48 PM



“ *Doris Griggs lit a candle in memory of Dr. Melvin Bond "Bubba" Nickles Jr.*



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**Doris Griggs** - December 18, 2014 at 01:37 PM



*Dear Family, so sorry to hear about Dr. Nickles! He was a great man, loved by many and will be greatly missed! One thing about him, he never gave up!! Will be praying for all of you during this difficult time! May you find peace in knowing that he is now pain free! My deepest sympathy to each of you and may God give you strength during this time of loss and the days ahead!*

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**Doris Griggs** - December 18, 2014 at 01:44 PM

GM

*I am so sorry to learn of the loss of Dr. Nickles. He will be surely missed by all who knew him. I dearly loved Dr. Nickles and was a patient of his for years. Thanks to Bond and Will for taking such good care of him. He and Nancy are now celebrating again as a couple.*

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**Gayle McDonald** - December 18, 2014 at 02:49 PM

EH

*It was truly an honor to work at Dr. Nickles' office! He touched so many lives and was loved by so many! He will really be missed! But he's going to have an awesome Christmas in heaven with Nancy! Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Eric & Kay Hayes** - December 18, 2014 at 06:56 PM