



# Terry F Tanner MD

SEP 30, 1926 - JUN 29, 2023



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## **Terry F Tanner MD**

SEP 30, 1926 - JUN 29, 2023

**T**erry F. Tanner, M.D., 96, died June 29, 2023 of age-related natural causes at Westminster Palms in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was born on September 30, 1926 in Charleston, Missouri, and grew up in Quitman, Georgia. An amazing fact was being born on his father's birthday and was blessed to welcome his first-born son on that same date. His father also passed away on the same day in 1977.

In 1943, at the age of 16, he entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI/Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia where both his grandfather, father, and two brothers graduated. After two years of college, he enlisted in the Army, eventually serving in the medical corps. He honorably served in the Philippines and Japan until the war ended.

Terry returned to VPI and graduated in 1949 with a degree in Biology. He then entered the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated in 1953 with a Doctor of Medicine degree. He and his brother, Paul, were in the first class of interns at Mound Park Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida, now Bayfront Health Center. In 1954, after interning, Terry entered private practice with his brother in Auburndale, Florida. He returned to St. Petersburg in 1956 and eventually began the practice of Industrial Medicine at Honeywell as their first physician, for over 20+ years.

He also continued to be the plant physician for several small companies, including ECI (Electronic Communications Inc.) In October of 1963, he founded Concept, INC., a medical surgical instruments company. He served as president and chairman of the board for many years until retiring in 1983. Concept Inc. was acquired by Bristol Myers Squibb in June of 1990.

Terry also founded the Medical Research Investment Fund, holding a Series 7 license. Because of his intense interest and dedication to Industrial Medicine, he was the founder and first president of the Florida Industrial Medical Association.



## Obituary

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In 1958, after returning to St. Petersburg, he met a young nursing student named Lynn Houser. They married after her graduation in 1961.

Terry was an active member and elder for many years at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Northeast Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg. In 2003, he and Lynn joined St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church where they have served faithfully for many years. Terry loved the Lord and was grateful most of all for his personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He was certain of his eternal future in God's Kingdom. Terry was a sweet, loving, humble, generous, and kind man. He was known for his quick-witted sense of humor and was adored by all who knew him well.

Terry is survived by his loving wife, Lynn, of 61 years; his two children, Terry Jr. (Nancy) and Rebecca (Keith); seven grandchildren, Brittany, Brooke, Brandee, Breck, Tanner, Carlyn, and Bailey; four and  $\frac{3}{4}$  great grandchildren, Everson, Kaiverly, Nyah, and Seylah; brother, Dr. Maurice Tanner; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his second son, Gregory (1968), and eldest brother, Paul (2021).


There will be a celebration of life service at St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church, 600 83rd Ave NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 on Saturday, July 15 at 11:30am, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, consider giving a donation to St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church or the charity of your choice.





# Events

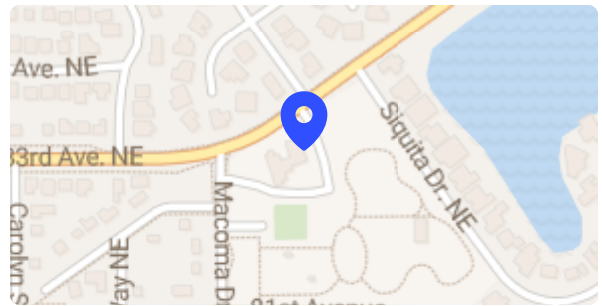
**Terry F Tanner MD**  
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## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, July 15, 2023

 11:30 AM ET

 **St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church**  
600 83rd Ave NE, St. Petersburg FL 33702





## Tribute Wall

**Terry F Tanner MD**

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**Trent Ulrich** posted:

Terry Jr. & I hv been lifelong friends since the 7th grade. Doc Tanner was as much a surrogate father as one can have & a man who I deeply admired & respected. He had extraordinary business acumen successfully founding, building & ultimately selling a multi-million medical device company. Regardless of this iconic success, Doc was an intellectual who never embellished, bragged or even spoke of his success unless questioned. One thing that consistently stood out was his love for his wife& children. They were always his priority & shared everything as a family. Throughout my life, I happened to be on the giving side of his generosity- everything from Bucs games, to family vacations. In hindsight, these were blessed times & greatly appreciated. Additionally, he had to act as disciplinarian to two deviant youths that would tax the patience of Job. In hindsight, Terry & I had to have given him ulcers but we would never know it as he was always so calm & calculated. Doc was a great mentor, intellect, businessman but even greater Father, husband, grand father, & most importantly a man of faith who I was fortunate to know and a better person because of it. We don't have enough men like him in our world today & the positive impact he had on me will be forever remembered & treasured. There is truly a special place in heaven for Doc Tanner. May he assuredly Rest in peace. Sincerest condolences to Mom Tanner, Terry, Becky & the entire extended Tanner family. May God continue to richly bless you. Trent Ulrich

July 14 at 11:16 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Terry F Tanner MD**

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RJ

**Ralph Jordan** posted:

I met Terry, Dr Tanner , back in 1974 at a Medical Meeting. He was behind a booth talking about a disposable penlight. I was fascinated with the concept and to my surprise the name of the company that he founded was Concept , Inc. At the time, I was working for the surgical instrument arm of Johnson and Johnson Inc. We continued to stay in touch and in 1976 I moved my family from Plymouth Ma. to Clearwater , FL to work with Concept Inc. It was one of the best decisions I made and it was singularly because of Dr Tanner. The company was a magnet for bright and ambitious future entrepreneurs who learned much from their respective positions within the stat up manufacturing company led by Terry. The lessons learned were many and the many challenges taught us all how to be resilient and patient and innovative. For this opportunity and by allowing us the freedom to try to resolve and pursue remedies to overcome these respective challenges was invaluable. I have Dr Tanner to thank and I have always been grateful for the respect and confidence he gave to many of us to forge ahead. I remember little things about Terry. He was the bugler when he was at VPI...He was tickled that I attended VMI the rival over in Lexington, VA. The rivalry between us was fun. He did honor me once in the Board Room when he played TAPS for me and caused a bit of a commotion with the staff. Dr Tanner loved to attend Medical Conventions and always felt that unless the company attended them that no one would buy our products. He loved Las Vegas and would encourage me to make sure that we attended meetings there many times. His favorite hotel was the former old Sahara Hotel. When there I was his designated "lucky charm "...that meant being with him until it was time to fly back to Clearwater. He was a hoot. On a more serious note however, his compassion and patience and fair-mindedness was a hallmark of his. He was genuinely humble, sometimes very quiet, and never ever demeaned anyone even if they deserved it. My experiences at Concept taught me many things about running a start up to going public. Like I said earlier I considered it a privilege and a career enhancing opportunity to be associated with Dr Tanner in those early years. My sincere condolences to the family and may Terry find comfort in the arms of his sweet Lord. Rest in peace Dr. Tanner . Ralph Jordan,VP Marketing and Sales (1976-1980)

July 5 at 4:45 PM

BA

**Balder** posted:

Dr.Tanner/Granddaddy was the most amazing man. He was always happy, laughing and joking. Always welcomed our family into their home as if we also were his family and his grandkids anytime we visited his son and family. Thank you for spreading your love, faith and laughter. We're blessed to have had you in our lives. You'll be missed but I know you're celebrating the best life now with your creator. We love you, The Balder Family

July 8 at 8:07 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Chris Tanner** posted:

My Uncle Terry certainly lived a long life of success, generosity, and caring. He was definitely entertaining and easygoing to be around. Prayers to Lynn, Terry Jr., Becky, and all of the family. Rest In Peace...

July 5 at 4:45 PM



**James** July 14 at 7:25 AM

Dr. Terry Tanner recruited me in 1981 to serve as president of his company, Concept, Inc. At that time, I was a 35-year-old medical device executive that had no experience in running a publicly traded company (which Concept, Inc. was), but I did have 15 years' experience in managing and helping develop medical devices. Several Concept board members did not agree with Dr. Tanner's selecting me, but he was an adamant and powerful supporter and held his ground. I remained President until 1993. The solid creditable of product innovation history of Concept that was continually fostered by Dr. Tanner helped the Company became the world's premier Orthopaedic arthroscopy company that created many surgical firsts that are now considered standard procedures. The Company's name was changed to Linvatec in 1991 and today still remains as a powerful contributor to the health care industry. The legacy of Dr. Tanner's passion for product innovation and his just sheerer business tenacity lives on and has allowed the Company and many others to benefit. There is an entire industry that is thankful. My sympathy to Lynn and the entire Tanner family. James T. Treace (Former Concept, Inc. President 1981-1993)



**Maurice Tanner, MD** July 6 at 8:50 AM

MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS WERE GOOD MENTORS FOR ME TO FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH TRICKS THEY PLAYED ON ME GROWING UP I STILL REMEMBER. WHEN ABOUT 4 OR 5 THEY PUT ICE CUBS IN MY HAND, HAD ME MAKE A FIST AND RUN FIVE TIMES AROUND OUR HOUSE. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO WRITE MY NAME IN MY HAND. WHEN IT DIDN'T WORK, WE DID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND I KEPT FALLING FOR IT. TERRY WAS A GOLFER WHO FOR YEARS PLAYED WITH ONLY A FOUR WOOD, FIVE IRON AND PUTTER. HE WON THE LAST FLIGHT IN A TOURNAMENT WINNING A NEW SET OF FOUR WOODS, AND SINCE HE COULDN'T USE THEM, HE GAVE THEM TO ME WHICH I USED FOR YEARS. I LOVED AND RESPECTED MY BOTHERS TERRY AND PAUL WHO DIED BEFORE HIM, AND OFFER MY SYMPATHY TO LYNN, TERRY, JR. BECKY AND EXTENDED NIECES AND NEPHEWS. MAURICE TANNER, MD



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Terry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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