



C. Kirk Avent, M.D.

October 27, 1939 – June 30, 2022

I was born in Memphis, Tennessee. My father, Harold Avent, was a combat surgeon in the European theater in World War II; he died from complications of high blood pressure two years after returning home. My mother, Emily Wallace, supported my brother, Rob, and me by working as a secretary. When she remarried, to Julius Berry, we moved to Tupelo. Phillips Exeter Academy, Vanderbilt, Harvard Medical School, Internal Medicine Residency at UAB, and Infectious Disease Fellowship in Seattle were followed by a return to UAB Medical School in 1970 as Instructor in Medicine. Bill Dismukes and I joined Glenn Cobbs as the first three members of the Division of Infectious Disease. We were not just colleagues, but deep personal friends. What followed were 37 years as a clinician/educator. For 21 of those years, I was the Director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship, through which all medical students rotate in their third year of medical school. I was honored to receive several teaching and clinical skills awards from

students and faculty; I particularly cherish the President's Award for Teaching and the Arthur Gold Foundation Award for Humanism in Medicine. After retiring from UAB in 2003 as Professor of Medicine Emeritus, I moved down the street to become the Director of Disease Control at the Jefferson County Department of Health for four years.

Although my stuttering made life difficult at times, it gave me a sensitivity for people who were in distress or suffering.

My wonderful, profoundly-loved wife, Nancee Neel, and I married in 1983. I cannot imagine life without her love, support, companionship, and encouragement. We moved to Asheville in 2014. Our son, Clayton, and his wife, Elizabeth, live in New Jersey with their daughter, Eleanor.

My former wife, Rosalie Crispin, and I reared two daughters. Mary (Mezera) lives in Hilton Head with her husband, Joe, and two sons—Joe and Garrett. Another daughter, Emily, died in 2011 leaving three daughters—Gabrielle, May, and Rose. My dear brother Rob lives in Tupelo with his wife, Sandy.

All-in-all, I have had a rich, fulfilling life. I feel particularly blessed.

Don't send flowers; instead, remember and thank a favorite teacher. Anyone who would like to contribute to the C. Kirk Avent Fellowship Support Fund can do so at www.uab.edu/medicine/id/give/.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Kirk's life will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 2:30 pm at the Crest Center & Pavilion in Asheville, North Carolina. All are welcome.