



IN TRIBUTE TO OUR PARTNER & FRIEND

WILLIAM RAYMOND JOUETT, MD

July 19, 1928 – October 19, 2018

Almost exactly one year ago, we lost our beloved neurosurgeon, Ronald (Ron) N. Williams (10/2/1942–10/28/2017). He was my trusted and loyal mentor. Today, we pay our loving respects to his mentor and dearest friend, Ray Jouett. William Raymond Jouett, MD was one of the early pioneers of neurosurgery and amongst the first to practice west of the Mississippi.

Like Ron, Ray was one of the most respected and accomplished neurosurgeons in the world. After both had retired, we changed the name of our practice to “Legacy Neurosurgery,” to honor their infinite contributions to both my life and the lives of so many others.

Ray was immersed in the love of literature, history, faith, family and friends. He will also be remembered for his incredible piano and yachting skills, and his leadership in all walks of life; including his church, the Arkansas Medical Board and numerous academic societies.

While serious and often feared in his role as Chairman of the Board, Ray had another side that many may or may not have known. He



was kind, caring, funny, loving, precious and genteel to those who got to know him personally.

Ray was a true southern gentleman, right out of the set of “Gone with the Wind.” An avid scholar, religious and academic teacher. A man of uncompromising ethical and moral principles, a leader, parent, mentor, friend, commodore of yachts, and a prolific writer of elegant letters with perfect penmanship. Ray was both respected and respectful,

profoundly ethical and moral and a devout believer in his faith.

While some will remember his tremendous skills as a brain and carotid artery surgeon, I will most cherish his incredible talents as a caring physician whose only interest in his practice was his patients. From medical students to partners and fellow physicians, Ray taught all of us how to ethically care for patients—not just in words, but in actions. His charm was warm and

infectious. Ray was, and always will be, a role model for my profession, and most importantly, my life.

On this beautiful day in heaven, Ray and Ron are likely sitting together on the veranda of their shared library, sipping on their respective martini and Crown Royal. I like to think they’re reading a historical novel, and telling stories of the past and exchanging dreams for their families’ future. These two neurosurgery icons were not only my bosses and teachers, but my dear friends. We shared many travels, dinners and late nights full of laughs and tall tales, debates over history and yes, even a whiskey or two.

Their legends will hopefully live on in the new generation of neurological specialists, as we attempt to walk in their enormous footsteps. Here at Legacy Spine & Neurological Specialists, we will always strive to carry on their principles, their ethics, their commitment to patient care and their honor as best as we possibly can. I am so grateful to have had them both as influences on my life, and I hope that as they look down on Earth, they will grin with approval at our torch-carrying efforts.

“A gentleman is one who puts more into the world than he takes out.” – GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

“Mensch”—Yiddish for one who extols the best qualities of humanity. I doubt I will ever meet anyone that matches the definition of a Mensch or Shaw’s gentleman as well as Ray Jouett. Shalom, Chaver Zichrono Livrachah. Goodbye, my friend, may you rest in peace!

— Scott Schlesinger, MD, Legacy Spine & Neurological Specialists —