Obituary

Born: Saturday, April 23, 1938
Died: Monday, December 15, 2014

Dr. Robert C. Hastings, of Baton Rouge, LA and Covington, TN, passed away Monday December 15, 2014 in Memphis. He was 76. A memorial service will be held Thursday at First United Methodist Church in Covington, with visitation one hour prior. He was the son of the late Robert S. and Margaret Peterson Hastings of Covington.

Dr. Hastings took his premedical training at Vanderbilt University, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1962, and received his Ph.D. in pharmacology from Tulane University, where he was later clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine. He was also a proud and faithful member of the Byars Hall High School Class of 1956.

Dr. Hastings was a commissioned officer with the U.S. Public Health Service who spent the entirety of his career at the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy) Center in Carville, Louisiana beginning as a staff physician in 1966 and later as the Chief of Pharmacology Research. For 24 years he served as editor of—and frequent contributor to—the International Journal of Leprosy. In 1980 he was presented the Meritorious Service Medal by then-U.S. Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond in recognition of his international reputation as a researcher in Hansen’s Disease therapy.

Dr. Hastings is survived by his daughter, Cindy Hastings-Sakaan of Memphis, and two sons, Robert F. Hastings of Memphis and Jeff Hastings of Los Angeles. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Sarah, Magda, Omar, and Zachary Sakaan, and his aunt, Mary Frances Bennett of Brighton, TN.