



## Dr. John Roberts Maddox

September 21, 1934 - May 21, 2018

Dr. John Roberts Maddox, Jr., 83, passed away peacefully in his sleep Monday, May 21, 2018 in his room at Northshore Senior Center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dr. Maddox was born on September 21, 1934 in Calhoun, Tennessee. He called Knoxville home for the majority of his life. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Roberts Maddox, Sr. and Fannie Taylor Maddox, and by his daughter, Holly Sue Maddox. He is survived by his sister, Ruth Anne Maddox Myers (Melvin) of Calhoun; Lisa Maddox-Baker of Knoxville, the mother of his son, Mark Maddox (Patricia) of Gig Harbor, WA; Margaret Maddox of Knoxville, the mother of his sons, Kevin Maddox of Asheville, NC; Brian Maddox (Jessica) of Los Angeles, CA; and Michael Maddox (Suma) of New Orleans, LA. He dearly loved his four grandchildren, Brianna Maddox of Gig Harbor; and Rainer, Rivers, and Kingston Maddox of New Orleans.

Dr. Maddox was an alumnus of Calhoun High School, attended The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and graduated from The University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army, in which he served as a doctor, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before being honorably discharged.

Dr. Maddox practiced General Pediatric Surgery at East Tennessee Children's Hospital for almost forty years, but it was his patients, not his practice, to whom he dedicated so much of his life. Over the course of his career, Dr. Maddox impacted the lives of tens of thousands of sick children, their parents, and their families. So valued was Dr. Maddox's contribution to the care of his patients that, upon his retirement in 2003, Children's Hospital named a wing of its operating facilities after him in honorarium.

The family will receive friends and family from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel, 6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, and again from 2:00 to 3:00pm on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at Calhoun United Methodist Church, 820 TN-163, Calhoun, TN 37309 with the funeral to follow immediately at Calhoun United Methodist. Burial will be in the Calhoun Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to East Tennessee Children's Hospital, or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Calhoun Cemetery

Calhoun, TN, 37309

**MAY 27** **Receiving of Friends** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

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Calhoun United Methodist Church  
820 TN-163, Calhoun, TN, US, 37309

**MAY 27** **Funeral Service** 03:00PM

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Calhoun United Methodist Church  
820 TN-163, Calhoun, TN, US, 37309

# Comments

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“ Dr. Maddox did my son’s pyloric stenosis surgery in September 1974. My son was just 7 1/2 weeks old. He told me not to worry that he would just have a bandaid on his tummy. And that is exactly what he had. He comforted me and I have remembered always his kindness and caring for my son. We were so blessed to have him. W

**K. Harrop** - October 21, 2018 at 07:36 PM

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“ Dear Maddox family,  
I am so sorry about your loss of John. It was my honor to be his friend because he was such a wonderful pediatric surgeon, physician, colleague, and Man. He has been greatly missed at children’s hospital since his retirement. (which he enjoyed for several years) His wisdom and guidance as a member of the hospital’s board were instrumental, as well as his patient care and clinical service. Enjoy your great memories.  
Missing him,  
Jerry Blossom

**Jerry Blossom** - May 29, 2018 at 02:42 PM

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“ My brother and I grew up with John’s youngest 2 boys. My fondest recent memories of John were how excited and proud he was to present Michael with his diploma from UT medical school since the school allowed him on stage to present it. Also, he sent the kindest, most encouraging note to me when I started my first job, and it is something that I keep in my office to this day.

We hated that we couldn’t make the service this past weekend but our condolences go the entire family.

**Andy Adams** - May 29, 2018 at 07:47 AM

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“ John Maddox embodied the values of Children's Hospital. I valued his mentorship, his partnership, and his friendship. Probably my greatest tribute is to say that I trusted him to care for my own child. He has been and will continue to be missed. God's comfort and blessings to his family and close friends.

**Jeanann Pardue** - May 26, 2018 at 10:38 AM

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“ I first met John in 1982. He is a wonderful example of what a caring physician should be. A truly great surgeon. He operated on many of our NICU patients with great results and almost no complications. He was on the Children's board of directors for many years and his wisdom was very important in Children's becoming the hospital it is today. He was a great friend and colleague and I will miss him greatly.

Henry Wooldridge MD

**Henry Wooldridge** - May 26, 2018 at 10:02 AM

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“ We've known Dr. Maddox for many years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed.  
Ray and Louise Shelton

**Ray and Louise Shelton** - May 25, 2018 at 04:13 PM

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“ Dr Maddox was a great man and doctor. My daughter had cystic fibrosis and had some trouble but Dr Maddox stepped right up and knew the problem. He had a special bond with his patients and the concern that a doctor needs. He has been thought of a lot and will be missed dearly. My prayers and thoughts are with his family and the ones close to him. Rest in peace Dr. Maddox

Jackie Faulkner Shelton

**Jackie Faulkner Shelton** - May 25, 2018 at 10:40 AM

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“ Dr. Maddox operated on all three of my daughters when they were children, and he was the most caring doctor I've ever known. He made me feel very comfortable having them undergo surgery and I knew they would be in good hands with him. I have thought fondly about him often through the years. I am so sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful and compassionate doctor and friend to many families.

**Carol Dunaway** - May 25, 2018 at 09:49 AM

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“ An endless number of families live in gratitude for Dr. Maddox. The children, not his convenience, not his schedule--helping the children was his criteria for what he did and when he did it. I have known him to travel out of town to give support to another family when a required surgery was something he was not prepared to do. He was trusted. He was respected. He was the same for every child and every family who needed him. He was the same for us as staff. He gave us respect and appreciation for our work. In so many ways he represents the best of Children's Hospital. I was privileged to work in the same place as Dr. Maddox. With thousands of others I offer sincere sympathy to his family and friends and thank you for sharing him with many of us.--Sandy Foster, Retired chaplain, Children's Hospital

**Sandra Foster** - May 24, 2018 at 02:09 PM

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“ I gained an insight into the heart of Dr. Maddox late one night in the Children's Hospital ER. I forget the exact circumstances that led to him being there for surgery on a particular patient, but from conversations around me it became clear that it was not his night to be on call, and it was not a patient he had previously treated. His statement to all who were expressing appreciation for his coming was simply, "This kid needs surgery, and somebody has to do it." --Bob Yost, ETCH Respiratory Care

**Bob Yost** - May 24, 2018 at 09:49 AM

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“ Knoxville has lost one of the pioneers in pediatric surgery. Not only was he a great surgeon but a great person. I will forever miss his visits to our office.

**Debbie stoffle Dr gitschlag office** - May 24, 2018 at 06:03 AM

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“ I don't remember Dr. Maddox really well, but I only remember good things. I was a ridiculously shy kid. Painful shy. People completely freaked me out. But I remember being very comfortable with him. If I'm not mistaken he did all my surgeries. Twice when I was 2 yrs old and then all my cancer related surgeries going into 5th grade and after my treatment was finished in 6th grade. I've probably not seen him since he removed my port after finishing treatment, I'm 41 now, but I'm saddened to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers for his family and friends.

**Jennifer Mann** - May 23, 2018 at 10:17 PM

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“ Dr. Maddox has left a permanent impression in my husband's and my life. we consider him to have been a valuable treasure in the community of Knoxville.

We first met him in the fall of 1981 when we learned our infant son was born with biliary Artesia. Dr. Maddox did the surgery to make a bile duct to connect the liver with the stomach. After several days he reluctantly shared that the pathologist could find no bile ducts in the liver. He gave our son a ZERO percent chance of surviving for a year. He followed Jonathan's prognosis over the next several months. Late one evening Jonathan was crying with a very distressed cry. I contacted Dr. Maddox and when he heard his cry he said, "That's not his usual cry, is it?" He made arrangements for us to bring Jonathan to his office that night after his hospital rounds. By that time Jonathan's discomfort had passed and the examine didn't show anything. We think perhaps that is the night that the surgery became effective. His health took a decisive turn for the better. Jonathan was a bundle of energy - it to both my husband and myself to keep up with him. Unfortunately two months before his eleventh birthday he took a turn for the worse. He spent those last two months in Children's Hospital and many times Dr. Maddox dropped by his room. Jonathan was so excited about his birthday. We had a big party planned for him. All the staff on his floor and elsewhere in the hospital were invited to the party. Early that morning Dr. Maddox came into the room to say Happy Birthday. Then he lovingly gave Jonathan a kiss on his forehead. After celebrating his party Jonathan gently passed away. The LORD blessed us with those 11 years of life and Dr. Maddox will always be a part of that blessing.

Dr. Maddox touched so many lives. All of us love him dearly and consider him to be a part of the family.

With our deepest sympathy,  
Carl and Carol Thomas

**Carol Thomas** - May 23, 2018 at 08:20 PM



“ John was a colleague of mine taking care of patients at ETCH. We also worked on many hospital committees there together. He removed my youngest son's appendix. He was a very fine pediatric surgeon but best of all he was a great example of a caring dedicated physician. He will be missed! Dr. Shirley Avery

**Shirley** - May 25, 2018 at 01:55 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I will always remember his devotion in trying to save my daughter, Amy Michelle Gray, and his kindness to her father and myself. It has been over 45 years but I still think of his kindness often. Dawna Gray

**Dawna C Gray** - May 23, 2018 at 01:42 PM



“ I worked with Dr. Maddox when I moved to Knoxville to start Pediatric Gastroenterology program. He was in my Interview and one of reasons I took the Job. He was an exceptional human being with a warm and caring personality. He was an excellent Pediatric Surgeon one of the best I have ever worked with. God Bless his soul.

**Youhanna Al-Tawil** - May 23, 2018 at 12:19 PM

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“ Rosemary Quillen-  
My path crossed with Dr.Maddox not by choice but by design. 30 years ago this week, he performed the first of seven surgeries on my premature infant , Katie. His expertise, love and support saved her life. He instantly became family and has celebrated birthdays, graduations, and weddings with us. Katie now has a handsome year old son. Our hearts are broken but we were truly blessed to share life with Dr. John. He often reminded me that this life is not about us but what we do for others. I love you and I miss you already.

**Rosemary Quillen** - May 22, 2018 at 11:09 PM

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“ Dr. Maddox was my surgeon twice in August 1988. I'd just turned 15, and he did the surgical biopsy which diagnosed my cancer. He did my staging surgery just over a week later. But the memory I treasured most of him is when he pulled my Broviac line in his office the following summer. I was extremely skittish and a real basket case of dread. He gently told me that he would wait till I felt ready, and he let the chaplain (a dear friend, by this time) come in and talk musical theatre with me. Every so often, he'd pop his head back into the room and cheerfully ask, "Ready yet?" "Ready now?" And every time I'd freak out and shake my head, he'd just say, "Okay!" and shut the door behind him. I don't remember exactly how long that poor man waited for me to get my nerve up, but it was probably the better part of an hour past my appt time. He didn't pressure me that I was running him behind the way many people about to do painful things to me when I was still so scared of them tended to do. He didn't make me feel ashamed or embarrassed or guilty. He didn't tell me I was too old to do this and acting worse than his younger patients (which never helped, but he never was one who did it). Nope. He just would peek in, ask, and go back out. And when I finally let him do it, he cleaned my line up and let me take it home to keep. :) I still have it in a drawer of mementos.

Most people would have been too busy (and too frustrated) to be that kind to a teen. But Dr. Maddox never treated me like I was a bother. And what a sense of humor he had - that last time seeing him as a patient, as I was waiting for him to write my prescription, I said, "Why do all doctors have terrible handwriting nobody can read?" He didn't say a word. He just finished writing my prescription, then handed it to me.

His handwriting was the most flawless, legible, absolutely clear handwriting I've EVER seen.

I think of that often, even thirty years later.

The world lost a great man, a great doctor, and a great surgeon. My deepest condolences in your loss.

**Kimbra Gish** - May 22, 2018 at 10:41 PM

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“ There are so many good memories of Dr Maddox from working with him in the ER at ETCH. He was a truly dedicated surgeon and a wonderful man. I'm so sorry to hear about his passing. His memory will live on through so many people.

**Jan Bishop** - May 22, 2018 at 08:55 PM

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“ As a pediatric anesthesiologist, I worked with hundreds of surgeons including the best that Harvard Medical School had to offer...John was better! A truly great talent.

Phil Kellett MD

Phil Kellett MD - May 22, 2018 at 08:40 PM

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“ It is an honor to have worked with and known Dr.Maddox. He had a passion that could not be denied. He was an excellent teacher and what he taught me as well as others continues to impact patients today. His legacy lives on. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Sonya McGill Underwood - May 22, 2018 at 08:32 PM

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“ I have known Dr.Maddox since the mid 70's as a nurse at ETCH. I have taken care of kids who Dr.Maddox have treated their parents. He did surgery on both of my kids. The man is legend...no one could ever do what he did...

Kathy Stevens



kathy stevens - May 22, 2018 at 08:26 PM

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“ Wonderful physician to our NICU patients and families. He will be remembered for his kindness and great heart.

esther ohare - May 22, 2018 at 07:55 PM

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“ I worked with Dr. Maddox in the NICU at Children’s Hospital. He worked tirelessly on many children to help save their lives. We would praise him for his skill in making the smallest incision possible! He preformed surgery on my neice at 6 weeks old and saved her life. He will be remembered for years to come as the best of the best.  
Carol Lilly

carol Lilly - May 22, 2018 at 07:55 PM

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“ I worked with Dr Maddox at Children's for several years before his retirement. He was an outstanding surgeon and his legacy lives on through his patients and Children's staff. Prayers for comfort

Tammy Ruth Van Dyk - May 22, 2018 at 07:26 PM

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“ I'm so sorry for Dr. Maddox's family. As an RN in the NICU at Children's Hospital, many of his patients were also mine. He always seemed kind and caring with the babies and their parents. May he rest in peace after a life and job well done.

Karen Douglas - May 22, 2018 at 07:19 PM

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“ To his family I want to say thank you for sharing him with all the families and employees of East Tennessee Children’s, and to tell you what an honor it was to know him.

barbara - May 22, 2018 at 06:17 PM

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“ The kindest of all men, he took such good care of the children that I cared for at Kids and Nurses so many years ago. He has been missed and will always be remembered.

Peggy Watson - May 22, 2018 at 04:27 PM