



Robert Thomas Hollingsworth  
1924 -2010  
AAFA #0772

# *Robert T. Hollingsworth*

*Jun 24 1924 - July 15 2010*

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Dr. Hollingsworth was born June 24, 1924 in Houston, MS to Reverend Robert Thomas, Sr. and Mattie Alford, joining his adopted older brother, Johnny. He is survived by Kathryn his wife of 58 years, daughter Anna Kathryn Smith (David), son Holly (Lynn) and granddaughter Katelyn Hollingsworth.

Upon returning from service as a WW II Naval aviator piloting submarine hunters while serving in England and French Morocco, he earned his undergraduate degree at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Dr Bob as he was affectionately known attended both University of MS and University of Tennessee Medical Schools and was awarded his medical degree and license to practice in 1950.

Dr Bob and his new bride took leave of post-graduate surgical

training in 1953 to answer the call from Shelby, a farming community 100 miles south of Memphis in which the town doctor had retired. For over 50 years he practiced his one-in-the-same love and hobby hand in hand with his wife who is a Registered nurse and was his constant professional companion. Together they tirelessly cared for thousands and delivered over 5000 babies.

In 1964, having been denied visas to work with Dr. G.S. Seagrave, author of Burma Surgeon in present-day Myanmar, the couple gave 6 months of their time and talents to Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital in Haiti.

Dr. Bob enjoyed his family, occasionally taking time to travel. He was active in Rotary International, City Council, Shelby Methodist Church and Boy Scouts. Achieving Eagle

Scout at age 16 under the guidance of his dad the Scout Master, Dr. Bob was awarded the Silver Beaver 52 years later, for his lifelong dedication to Scouting.

Dr Bob, having coped with Alzheimer's for 16 years, left this world on July 15, 2010, surrounded by his family. He gave his remains to Emory Medical School in Atlanta. Please join the family in celebrating a life well-lived. A service for the family will be in Smyrna, GA.

Memorials are received for nursing and pre-med scholarships by the Dr. R.T. and Kathryn Hollingsworth Endowment and should be addressed to Delta State University Alumni

## ROBERT THOMAS HOLLINGSWORTH Jr.

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Georgia, Atlanta - DR. Robert Thomas Hollingsworth, Jr., MD, was born June 24, 1924 in Houston, MS to Reverend Robert Thomas, Sr. and Mattie Alford, joining his adopted older brother, Johnny. He is survived by Kathryn his wife of 58 years, daughter Anna Kathryn Smith (David), son Holly (Lynn) and granddaughter Katelyn Hollingsworth. Upon returning from service as a WW II Naval aviator piloting submarine hunters while serving in England and French Morocco, he earned his undergraduate degree at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Dr Bob, as he was affectionately known, attended both University of Mississippi and University of Tennessee Medical Schools and was awarded his medical degree and license to practice in 1950. Dr Bob and his new

bride took leave of postgraduate surgical training in 1953 to answer the call from Shelby, a farming community 100 miles south of Memphis in which the town doctor had retired. For over 50 years he practiced his one-in-the-same love and hobby hand in hand with his wife who is a Registered Nurse and was his constant professional companion. Together they tirelessly cared for thousands and delivered over 5000 babies. In 2001 their dedication was honored in Shelby at a retirement gathering that included over 600 guests. In 1964, having been denied visas to work with Dr. G.S. Seagrave, author of Burma Surgeon in presentday Myanmar, the couple gave 6 months of their time and talents to Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital in Haiti. Dr. Bob enjoyed his family, occasionally taking time to travel. He was active in Rotary International, City

Council, Shelby Methodist Church and Boy Scouts. Achieving Eagle Scout at age 16 under the guidance of his dad the Scout Master, Dr. Bob was awarded the Silver Beaver 52 years later, for his lifelong dedication to Scouting. Dr Bob, having coped with Alzheimer's for 16 years, left this world on July 15, 2010, surrounded by his family. He gave his remains to Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. A service for the family will be in Smyrna, GA. Please join the family in celebrating a life welllived. Memorials are received for nursing and pre-med scholarships by the Dr. R.T. and Kathryn Hollingsworth Endowment and should be addressed to Delta State University Alumni Foundation, P.O. Box 3141 in Cleveland, MS 38733, [agiger@deltastate.edu](mailto:agiger@deltastate.edu), (800)GOTODSU.

## Robert Thomas Hollingsworth, Jr., MD

of Atlanta, formally of Shelby, died on July 15 in Atlanta.

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He is survived by Kathryn his wife of 58 years, daughter Anna Kathryn Smith (David), son Holly (Lynn) and granddaughter Katelyn Hollingsworth.

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## County remembers "Dr. Bob"

by Candrese Jones

The family of Dr. Robert Thomas Hollingsworth Jr., friends and residents of Bolivar County are mourning the death of a great humanitarian.

Hollingsworth, having coped with Alzheimer's for 16 years, of Atlanta, formerly of Shelby, died Thursday surrounded by his family.

Upon returning from service as a WW II Naval aviator piloting submarine hunters while serving in England and French Morocco, he earned his undergraduate degree at Millsaps College in Jackson. Dr. Bob, as he was affectionately known, attended both University of Mississippi and University of Tennessee Medical Schools and was awarded his medical degree and license to practice in 1950.

"I hated to hear about (Dr. Hollingsworth's passing)," said Dr. James E. Warrington. "He was a fine man and doctor.

"I practiced with him from '64-'72 — eight years — and I've never known a more dedicated and hardworking

doctor," said Warrington. "He cared for his patients 24 hours a day, which wasn't to unusual for him. We had the clinic open 24-7, seven days a week.

"He delivered many babies and conducted several surgeries," he said. "He took care of his patients and took care of whatever they needed. He was very knowledgeable and very dedicated to the practice of medicine.

"I really hate to hear about this," said Warrington. "I will miss him. He taught me a lot.

"I was a young doctor when we worked together," he said. "He taught me a lot about dedication. He was a fine Christian man. Because we know he was a Christian, we know he's in heaven."

Dr. Bob and his new bride, Kathryn, took leave of post-graduate surgical training in 1953 to answer the call from Shelby. He began in July 1953 as Shelby's only physician.

As a team, Dr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth reopened the small community hospital and worked side-by-side keeping

the office open until 1980.

"Dr. Hollingsworth was like a father figure to me," said Preston Billings, long-time resident of Shelby. "My family and I hold Dr. Hollingsworth in very high regards.

"He was very dedicated to service and was a true servant," said Billings. "He devoted a large portion of his life to the welfare of others and the advancement of this community (Shelby) and the surrounding communities.

"Peace be with Dr. Hollingsworth," he said.

For over 50 years, Hollingsworth practiced his one-in-the-same love and hobby hand-in-hand with his wife who is a registered nurse and was his constant professional companion. Together they tirelessly cared for thousands and delivered over 5,000 babies.

"He was just the best doctor and friend anybody could have," said Jane Letchworth. "He never let people's inability to pay stand in the way of them receiving care.

"He loved to practice medicine and did so unselfishly," said Letchworth. "If your child was sick, you could call him in the middle of the night and he would meet you at the clinic."

"He delivered all three of my children and took care of our entire family," she said. "He was a community leader. He was on the board of aldermen for years."

"We named the city's library in honor of him when he retired," said Letchworth. "He was a fine man."

In 1964, having been denied visas to work with Dr. G.S. Seagrave, author of "Burma Surgeon in present-day Myanmar," the couple gave six months of their time and talents to Albert Schweitzer Memorial Hospital in Haiti.

"I didn't know Dr. Hollingsworth personally," said Anne Giger, director of donor relations for Delta State University Foundation. "I have, however, talked with many people in the past hours and have listened to some very heart warming stories about Dr. Hollingsworth."

"From what I've heard, he was more than just a physician to his patients," said Giger. "He was their friend. He would make house calls and went above and beyond the call of duty."

"He had a very strong compassion for people and he truly loved his patients," she said. "Dr. Hollingsworth's legacy will live on."

"He and his wife have a scholarship in their names," said Giger. "Through that scholarship, his passion for service will be past on to the scholars of that scholarship. He was known as a person that inspired so many."

The Dr. Robert T and Kathryn McBride Hollingsworth Scholarships were established in June 2001 by friends of the Hollingsworths. The scholarships, awarded annually to a nursing major and a pre-medicine major at Delta State University, were established in honor of Hollingsworth's outstanding contribution to the healthcare of the citizens of Shelby, Bolivar County, the Mississippi Delta and the state of Mississippi.

Hollingsworth enjoyed his family and occasionally took time to travel. He was active in Rotary International, city council, Shelby Methodist Church and Boy Scouts. Achieving Eagle Scout at age 16 under the guidance of his dad, the Scout Master, Dr. Bob was awarded the Silver Beaver 52 years later for his lifelong dedication to Scouting.

"Dr. Hollingsworth was a good Christian man and was more than a doctor to so many," said Janie Price. "So many people were found of him."

"He went out of his way for his patients," said Price. "There are so many good things I could say about him and his wife, Kathryn. We were so very blessed to have him in Shelby."

"Dr. Hollingsworth was a wonder man," said Lee Burke. "He was a good neighbor, great doctor and friend."

Hollingsworth gave his remains to Emory Medical School in Atlanta. Please join the family in celebrating a life well-lived. A service for the family will be in Smyrna, Ga.

**Dr. Robert T. Hollingsworth Library** is a **Public** library. This library is affiliated with the system that serves [Bolivar County, MS](#).



My wife Lynn and I took her to Hollywoods on Lake Oconee (a weekend home I built 20 years ago shortly after the lake was created) for the weekend. It was the perfect ending to a stressful week. Not much traffic or noise on the lake, absolute silence at night except for the crickets and a few good meals on the deck with perfect weather. Mom slept 11 hours each night and will feel like new money in a week!

I talked mom into a new high speed hearing aide last Friday, her cataracts have been replaced with new lenses and the cortisone in her knee is in full effect. We are so thankful that dad is at peace and mom can once again enjoy her life.

Take care, h.

Holly Hollingsworth  
c-404-909-1010