



Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch

August 13, 1942 - June 22, 2024

Doctor Jerry Wayne Welch, 81, of Ellisville, MS affectionately known as “Grandoc” entered eternal rest Saturday, June 22, 2024, at his home in Ellisville, MS, with his wife and sons by his side.

Jerry was born on August 13, 1942 and was a lifelong resident of Laurel. A couple of accolades he was especially proud of, so the stories go, is that he was the City of Laurel ping pong champion at the age of 13 and a competitive dancer on channel 7 WDAM Saturday Dance Party. He was a 1961 graduate of George S. Gardner High School where he was an All-State basketball guard, leading scorer and self-declared “inventor of the three pointer”. He signed a basketball scholarship and attended the University of Southern Mississippi from 1961 - 1965 studying pre-medicine. He attended the University of Mississippi Medical School from 1965 - 1969 and then served two years in the Army Seventh Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC. He returned to Laurel to practice Family Medicine at Boone Clinic for three years before deciding to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology which he completed at Louisiana State University. He returned to Laurel to start his own practice. His first delivery was the mayor’s grandson and proceeded to deliver over 6,000 babies in his career. He finished his medical career at MEA Medical Clinic with over 50 years of service to his profession and the community.

Grandoc was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, skeet shooting, crossword puzzles, and gardening. He loved canning green beans, pickles, making salsa, and delicious Mayhaw jelly. His appreciation for the great outdoors was nothing compared to the love he had for his family and community; always greeting with a hug and a smile.

He was preceded in death by his mother Willie Mae Matthews, father Ward Oree Welch, brother Jimmy Dale Welch, and wife Pam Welch.

He is survived by his wife Kris Welch of Ellisville, MS; children Juli (George) Openshaw of Raleigh, NC; Wyatt (Gina) Welch of Saucier, MS; Duncan (Heather) Welch of Madison, MS; M'Lee (Herb) Davis of Big Sky, MT; sister Bobbie Faye Powell of Big Creek, MS; cousin and best friend Ronnie (Roxanne) Windham of Metairie, LA; stepchildren Danielle Herrington and Brandon Gregory of Laurel, MS; grandchildren John and Wells Openshaw; Aubrey, Ella, and Ryan Welch; Gray (Jerianna), Tristan (April), Aidan, Davis, and Jack Finley Welch; Dudley and Thaddeus Davis; Ryne and Jasper Herrington; Ethan and Chloe Gregory; three great grandchildren Poppy Welch, Easton Welch, and Kaisley DeLoach; numerous nieces and nephews; and beloved German Shepherd Sophie.

Services will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Laurel, MS on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. A celebration of life immediately after the service in the parish hall. Private interment will occur at a later date at the Welch-Graham Family Cemetery. Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel, MS is in charge of the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the American Cancer Society.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
540 N 5th Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

Memorial Service

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
540 N 5th Ave
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall

SC

“ Just saw where doctor Welch had passed away want to say he was a awesome doctor he was my doctor when I was very young still in school he showed care and compassion for me when I had to have several female surgeries I will never forget when I had to have a hysterectomy at a very young age and was in surgical holding before being taken to surgery he say me crying because I wanted to have children so badly him and my precious nurse stood by my bed side and held my hands and prayed and comforted me like no other doctor and nurse ever did. I was blessed to be able to adopt a little baby girl and doctor Welch and his nurse was one of the very first I took my baby to show them he said I told you God could still give you a baby. May God rest his soul in heaven because I know that he now has wings to fly. Sincerely Shelia C Moore Ctaven

Shelia Craven - July 16, 2025 at 07:33 AM

SE

“ I just have realized Dr Welch has passed away. He delivered both of my baby girls one in 1983 and one in 1988. This man was the sweetest and most kind hearted doctor. I also seen him at the MEA with my grandchildren and told them this is who delivered your mom. I love you DR Welch and I know you are living in heaven in peace. Your family was lucky to have you in their life I know I was. See you some day.



Staci (wilson) Ethridge - May 20, 2025 at 07:41 PM

BC

“ *May God give peace and comfort to all the family and loved ones. Fond memories of him as he cared for his patients and people who worked with him. His smiles and hugs were always welcome. A true life time friend to me and many. Brenda Phillips Calloway*

brenda calloway - June 29, 2024 at 11:04 AM

MM

“ *Juli,*

So sorry for your loss. Hope all is well.

Nancy & Todd's friend Michael from Athens.

Michael McNairy - June 28, 2024 at 10:46 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch.*



June 28, 2024 at 03:25 PM

TP

“ We had the good fortune to be a part of Dr. Jerry Welch's life when Jerry's son Wyatt and our daughter Gina, married in 1997. Over the years our various mutual visits between the Northern and Southern coasts were filled with love and laughter, always welcomed with a big smile and hugs from Jerry.

Jerry was always so proud of his southern roots and made sure we visited all the great things in and around Mississippi, introducing us to family and friends along the way. We loved it!

As Aubrey Welch, Wyatt and Gina's oldest son stated when he was a young child, "I am half Italian and half Southern." We think that says it all!

We will miss you Dr. Jerry Welch! Our condolences to all Jerry's family.

*Terry and Gayle Pizzuto
Portland, Oregon*

Terry and Gayle Pizzuto - June 27, 2024 at 01:27 PM

RT

“ *Renaee, Mike, and momma Tex purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch.*



Renaee, Mike, and momma Tex - June 26, 2024 at 10:49 AM

AW

“ Jerry was one of the kindest and friendliest people. He was so popular in high school but still was so nice to everyone. He was an excellent doctor and friend. Praying for all the family and friends during these days.

Amy and Phil Williams - June 26, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch.



June 25, 2024 at 10:54 PM

AD

“ Dr. Welch was one amazing OBGYN. He delivered both of my girls via csection. I was so scared the first time and he took out the time to talk to me and explain things to me. Even holding my hand and letting me know that he was going to take good care of me and my baby. I will never forget his kindness to me and the true care and concern that he had for all of his patients. God bless his family through this sorrow of his passing. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Ada - June 25, 2024 at 03:04 PM

JE

“ So saddened by the passing of one of the finest MDs of his time!! I have many fond memories of my time working with him as well as his friendship from early on.



Jan Ellzey - June 25, 2024 at 01:22 PM

PW

“ He was such a FINE DOCTOR! So very compassionate! He had the best bedside manner. You always knew your health and well-being were his main concerns. He also had a great sense of humor. I remember he had a life-size poster of Tom Selleck (as Magnum P.I.) on the ceiling of his exam room back when he and Dr. Profilet shared a practice in 1982. So when I would lie down on the exam table, there was Tom--smiling down at me. 🤔🤔🤔 And when the Good Doctor entered the exam room, he, too, was also smiling. Bless your heart, Dr. Jerry Welch! You have accomplished a Life Well Lived!

Pamela Barrineau Williams - June 25, 2024 at 01:02 PM

CL

“ Chuck & Angie Loftin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch.



Chuck & Angie Loftin - June 25, 2024 at 11:19 AM

CL

“ Chuck & Angie Loftin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Jerry Wayne Welch.

Chuck & Angie Loftin - June 25, 2024 at 11:19 AM