

Dr. Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers

April 6, 1933 - September 26, 2023

Celebration of Life

Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers

April 6, 1933--September 26, 2023

Tolly Rogers was born in Barney, Georgia, the youngest of six children (Frances, Lloyd, Norman, Morris and Glenn) born to Quinton Milos and Clara Lee Rogers. The family owned a farm, raising livestock and growing fruits and vegetables, which led to Tolly's love of wide-open spaces and agriculture. The family had dogs and cats, and one of Tolly's beloved orange tabby cats routinely begged him for "milk" from freshly shucked ears of corn. This early bonding with the farm's animals fostered his desire to become a veterinarian specializing in large animals. After graduating from the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine in 1957, he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for forty-three years. During his tenure with the USDA, he worked out of state to eradicate avian influenza and hog cholera and worked regionally to contain brucellosis and to maintain food production standards in dairy and livestock industries. Tolly's beloved "office" was the great outdoors, and he had respect for the agriculture industry and enjoyed working with farmers throughout the state of Georgia. Aside from his love of livestock, Tolly owned horses in his

early years of marriage to his late wife Mary Jayne when they lived in Gray, and one highlight of his career was assessing the thoroughbreds at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

Stemming from his roots on a farm, Tolly's passion was growing citrus fruit; aside from his family, his beloved fifty-plus year old grapefruit tree was his most treasured possession. He loved every aspect of maintaining the tree, including covering it in tarpaulin during the winters. He also grew Meyer lemons, satsumas, pomegranates, pears, peaches, pecans, blueberries, blackberries, muscadines, and sugar cane. He loved sharing his harvest with friends and cutting the sugar cane for the neighborhood children to enjoy. Aside from his love of horticulture, Tolly loved his church and served in leadership roles at Pinson Memorial United Methodist Church. He taught Sunday school for over thirty-five years and served on finance and administrative boards. Additionally, he was a Gideon for over forty years. He was an Administrative Board member at Worth Academy. When Tolly was not serving his community or working in the yard, he loved cheering for the Georgia "Bulldawgs." Throughout his life, he enjoyed sports and played baseball at ABAC prior to attending UGA.

Tolly is lovingly remembered by his daughters: Paula McDonald (Marty) and Lydia Rogers of Americus, Georgia; his grandchildren Geoffrey McDonald (Chalonda) of St. Mary's, Georgia and Andrew McDonald of Austin, Texas; and his caregivers Melissa McCrary of Chatsworth, Georgia; Sophronia Farrie, Brenda Haire, Shirley Lewis, Lisa Jackson of Sylvester, Georgia, and Diane Bentley of Sumner, Georgia. The family is grateful for the exceptional care given at home by Hospice of Tift Area and especially Zoe Dean, R.N. Following the celebration of his life on October 28 at 11:00 A.M. at Pinson Memorial United Methodist Church, the family will receive friends in the fellowship hall for a luncheon and visitation. Memorials may be given to Pinson Memorial United Methodist Church, The United Methodist Children's Home, and Best Friends Humane Society.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pinson Memorial Methodist Church
109 East Pope Street
Sylvester, GA 31791

Visitation

OCT 28. 11:45 AM (ET)

Pinson Memorial Methodist Church
109 East Pope Street
Sylvester, GA 31791

Tribute Wall

AH

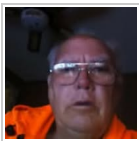
“ On behalf of the children, staff and Trustees of The Methodist Home, we offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences. May the peace and presence of God be near today and in the days ahead!

Alison Evans, CEO The Methodist Home - October 16, 2023 at 02:48 PM

BR

“ Tolly was a good friend to me in the days when I was his pastor. He loved showing me his fruit and encourage me to try my hand at it, which I did after moving to St Simons Island. We had a lot in common, and I had great appreciation for his accomplishments and his character.

Bill Reinheld - October 03, 2023 at 02:44 PM



“ Charles Potts sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers



Charles Potts - October 02, 2023 at 01:19 PM

PW

“ Sending condolences to his family and friends who were very important to him. Many thanks for all his contributions to the agricultural community. He reminds me of my uncle, Dr. Hugh Powell whose resume looks like his resume. He dedicated years to the study of diseases of poultry in North Carolina. His strong Christian influence and love of Christ touched so many. May we always both of these men and their dedication to everyday living.

Paula Wishum - October 02, 2023 at 08:20 AM

EC

“ I enjoyed Tolly at Pinson and in Sunday School. He was such an interesting man who had a lot of Bible knowledge. Always a gentleman and so kind. He will be sorely missed. His loved ones are in my prayers.

Elizabeth Cowles - September 30, 2023 at 04:17 PM

DB

“ Debbie Banks lit a candle in memory of Dr. Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers



Debbie Banks - September 30, 2023 at 01:31 PM

DB

Prayers for Lydia, Paula & family. Tolly was a super sweet guy. Debbie and Ray Banks.

Debbie Banks - September 30, 2023 at 01:33 PM

EC

“ Such a sweet man. He will be missed. I always called him Tolly Jolly Rigers. RIP Tolly Jolly. God bless you!



Evelyn Fletcher Castleberry - September 30, 2023 at 10:39 AM

DH

“ Doc was a good friend for over forty years, had some good pears I would take home to Ky and mom would make pear preserves and I would bring him back several jars. His daughters were and still are great girls. He was a good man.

Doug Hughes - September 30, 2023 at 09:22 AM

ZD

“ My sweet, precious, Mr. Tolly...what a joy and honor it was to know him in this life; even though it was only for a short time, he made a lasting imprint on this nurses heart. I will be lifting Paula, Lydia, the rest of the family, and the friends he leaves behind up in prayer in the days to come. My prayer is that you all find comfort in the blessed assurance that this isn't goodbye, it's just "see you later", and that you continue to cling to the wonderful memories you have of and with him until that great and glorious reunion in Heaven.

Zoe Dean - September 29, 2023 at 07:34 PM

JS

“ We considered Dr. Rogers a dear friend. His family will be in our prayers. He will be missed!

Judy & Mack Sutton - September 29, 2023 at 07:12 PM

DK

“ Enjoyed knowing Tolly for many years ! Our sincere condolences for his family during this sad time ! He will be missed! Davis and Donna King

Donna McCourry King - September 29, 2023 at 12:26 PM

RP

“ *My deeper condolences to your family on the loss of such a great man.*



Robert and Jennifer Parks - September 29, 2023 at 11:27 AM

SR

“ *Sharon Rhoads lit a candle in memory of Dr. Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers*



Sharon Rhoads - September 29, 2023 at 10:51 AM

SR

He will be missed by so many. Prayers for the family.

Sharon Rhoads - September 29, 2023 at 10:51 AM

CY

“ *Love and prayers for Lydia, Paula and Family. Tolly and Jayne were great neighbors and friends. He will be missed!*



Carol York - September 29, 2023 at 10:37 AM

SL

Much love and condolences to Paula, Lydia and entire family. Dr. Rogers will be missed. God picked a beloved soldier. Rest on my friend Mr Tollie

Shirley Lewis - September 29, 2023 at 12:51 PM

SL

God is awesome

Shirley Lewis - September 29, 2023 at 12:53 PM

JC

“ *June Coker lit a candle in memory of Dr. Roland Tollison "Tolly" Rogers*



June Coker - September 29, 2023 at 09:09 AM

SE

Rest in peace Tolly. I will always remember and cherish the good times that we had together. You were always a great friend to me.

Slade Exley - October 02, 2023 at 10:07 AM

HS

Will remember our friendship as members of the Class of 57 at UGA Vet School. We enjoyed the visits at recent class reunions. My condolences to your family.

Henry Stone

Henry Stone - October 04, 2023 at 10:50 AM