

## In Memoriam - Dr. James McDiarmid Corston

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Tue 6/23/2009 6:06 PM

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### IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. James McDiarmid Corston** died June 17, 2009, peacefully in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, QEII.

Born in Halifax, he was a son of the late Dr. James Robert and Mrs. Frances (McDiarmid) Corston. He was educated through the Halifax school system and attended Dalhousie University. He later obtained his medical degree from Edinburgh University, Scotland. After graduation, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (R.C.A.M.C.) in England and saw active service as a Triage Officer in a field dressing station throughout the European campaign of The Second World War. After the war he was demobilized in England where he continued his post graduate work at Oxford University. He returned to Canada in 1950, where he was appointed Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Dalhousie Medical School. He, simultaneously, developed a private practice. A major interest of his was in the treatment and prevention of Rh Disease in pregnancy. He was one of the first in North America to successfully transfuse an affected baby in utero many weeks before birth. He was very active in promoting the use of Rh globulin to prevent this disease; at that time, Halifax was one of only six Canadian centres that worked on the production of Rh globulin. Over the years, Dr. Corston held positions in various medical groups: President, Maritime Medical Care; President, Active Staff, Victoria General Hospital; President, Canadian Gynaecological Society. In addition, he served as: Elected Member of the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University from 1967-1979; member of the Neptune Theatre Board; Board Member of the United Appeal (professional group representative) and the Medical Society's representative on the Halifax Board of Trade. He also acted as Consultant in his speciality on the Defence Medical Council of Canada, headquartered in Ottawa and addressed groups internationally in this capacity. Dr. Corston is survived by his wife, Dr. Margaret (Ross); daughter, Heather and husband, Richard Vincenzi, Newburyport, Mass.; son, Jonathan and wife, Morgan, South Williamston; son, Hugh Quebec City, Que.; grandsons, Andrew and wife, Ginna, New York; Alex and wife, Hyun Ju, Boston, Mass.; great-grandsons, David, Boston and Jack, New York. In addition, he leaves three nieces and one nephew: Christine, Dartmouth; Nancy, Greenwood; Patricia, Halifax, and James, Toronto, Ont. He was predeceased by brothers, John, Robert and George. At his request, there will be no visitation or public service. Cremation has taken place and a family committal service is planned for a future date. The family also requests to be allowed to grieve in private. The family would like to acknowledge the kindness and outstanding support of Dr. Eric Hanley, Dr. Chris McKnight of the QEII Health Sciences Centre, Geriatric Unit, the staff of the 4th floor West Wing at Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building, QEII, Carol Moore of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and especially, Colleen Wight (our gem), and Helen Simms and Bernice Hatcher, our wonderful and caring Newfoundland ladies. Any donations in Dr. Corston's name would be gratefully received by The Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, Office of External Relations, Macdonald Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, B3H 3J5

