



## Charles E Rowan MD

August 4, 2016

Dr. Charles E. Rowan, who practiced internal medicine for decades while serving on hospital and health foundation boards, died Aug. 4 in the Laurels of Toledo. He was 83.

He'd been in declining health after heart surgery and a fall, said his wife, Odessa.

Dr. Rowan kept an active medical license through March, 2014, closing his career at Neighborhood Health Association and its Cordelia Martin Health Center. He'd retired from private practice several years earlier.

"He enjoyed what he was doing, and he thought he was making a difference," his wife said. "He was helping, and that was important to him, more so than the financial part of it."

Dr. Rowan had relatives in Toledo in the 1960s when, encouraged by others in the medical community, he decided to open a practice in the city, his wife said. Army service intervened, and he became a captain and was based at Fifth Army headquarters, then in Chicago.

His first Toledo office was on Collingwood Boulevard, and he later had practices on Madison Avenue near the former Mercy Hospital, on West Bancroft Street, and on Oak Alley Court.

"Everybody loved him," said Dr. Charles Harrison, retired from his practice of internal medicine, who met Dr. Rowan in July, 1966. "I moved here from Virginia, and I was going into medical practice and wanted to meet all the black physicians in the Toledo area. He was very efficient and knowledgeable. He was well trained."

Dr. Rowan had a special concern for overweight patients, his wife said, and guided them to sensible eating and exercise.

He'd been medical director of the Toledo Health and Retiree Center. He served on the

boards of trustees of what is now Mercy Health St. Vincent Medical Center and of the Sisters of Mercy Northern Health Foundation.

He'd been active in the local affiliate of Frontiers International Inc., an African-American service group, and supported Toledo-based Building Tomorrow's Generation. He was a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and its local chapter, Alpha Phi Boule.

He was a eucharistic minister at Gesu Church, where he was a member for more than 40 years.

Born April 30, 1933, to Nettie and Everett Rowan in Connersville, Ind., Dr. Rowan played basketball in high school and at Franklin College in Franklin, Ind., from which he received a bachelor's degree. He was a graduate of the medical school at Indiana University.

In 1969, Dr. Rowan was a panelist in a local discussion series, "Black on White - Black Catholics Talk to their White Brothers." He said that he'd been the only black in his high school graduating class and that life at medical school was pleasant, but he couldn't join a medical fraternity or get an internship at a private hospital.

His internship was at District of Columbia General Hospital and his residency at the V.A. Hospital of Fort Howard, Md. He'd considered a residency in Baltimore, but found few black physicians on hospital staffs.

Arriving in Toledo, "I thought this was heaven," he said in 1969. Black physicians were on the staffs of every hospital in town.

Surviving are his wife, Odessa Rowan, whom he married Jan. 4, 1958; sons, Michael, Brian, and Charles G. Rowan; daughter, Charelle Rowan-Dotson, and 11 grandchildren.

The family will receive callers from 3-6 p.m. Sunday at Dale-Riggs Funeral Home. Services will begin at 11 a.m. Monday in Gesu Church.

The family suggests tributes to the United Negro College Fund or Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

# Events

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**AUG**   **Visitation**                      02:00PM

**14**

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Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, Inc.  
572 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, OH, US, 43604

**AUG**   **Service**                              11:00AM

**15**

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Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, Inc.  
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# Comments

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“ Dr.Rowan was more than a good Dr.he was a good friend, may you find comfort in knowing that your loved one lives on in so many beautiful ways  
Sincerely, Willie Slaughter

**Willie Slaughter** - August 14, 2016 at 01:15 PM

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“ Dear Odessa,  
I'm thinking of you and your family, and remembering past times together.

Sincerely,  
Judy Hauman Dye

**Judy Hauman Dye** - August 14, 2016 at 10:56 AM

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“ Odessa and all the Rowan Family,  
Our deepest sympathies and condolences are with you on your loss. I first met Dr. Rowan at Mercy Hospital in Toledo. He had the personality and dignified commanding appearance about him that made you look up to him. He was one of the best Internist we had at Mercy in those days. His approach to patient care reflected his caring and compassionate qualities. I never saw him loose his temper and approached every situation with a calm and calculated problem solving. We worked on many Hospital Committees together and he always got us to the right path. He will be missed dearly by all of his patients, medical community and of course his friends and his dear family.  
Sorry, we will not be able to come to the viewing on Sunday afternoon but he will be in our thoughts and prayers. May his good memories be with you always. Best regards,  
Dr. Lachman and Nancie Chablani

**Dr. Lachman & Nancie Chablani** - August 13, 2016 at 10:02 PM

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“ Delbert J. Duckins, Sr. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Charles E Rowan MD.



**Delbert J. Duckins, Sr.** - August 13, 2016 at 03:09 PM

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“ Dr. Rowan was my previous family physician and that of my mother, and younger sister. We always appreciated his kindness and willingness to take time to listen to our health concerns and provide the care required. His commitment to service within our Toledo community will be missed. May his wife, Odessa, and other family members be comforted by knowing that others appreciated his dedication, time and commitment in the professional work and community service endeavors. he shared with us. He can now have perpetual peace. Doris A. Greer-Toledo, Ohio

**Doris Greer** - August 12, 2016 at 08:57 AM

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“ Doris Greer lit a candle in memory of Charles E Rowan MD



**Doris Greer** - August 12, 2016 at 08:48 AM

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“ Kerry Harris purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles E Rowan MD.



**Kerry Harris** - August 11, 2016 at 05:35 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles E Rowan MD.



August 11, 2016 at 03:38 PM

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“ Your Cigna Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Charles E Rowan MD.



**Your Cigna Family** - August 09, 2016 at 11:08 AM

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“ Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Charles E Rowan MD.



August 09, 2016 at 10:02 AM

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“ Amir Shabazz lit a candle in memory of Charles E Rowan MD



**Amir Shabazz** - August 09, 2016 at 05:27 AM



“ To the family: Sorry for your loss. Dr. Rowan was a nice person. He used to be my primary care physician at Cordelia Martin Health Center. He will be greatly missed.

**Amir Shabazz** - August 09, 2016 at 05:29 AM



“ Often our journey introduces us to wonderful individuals that we will never forget. Dr. Rowan is one of those unforgettable people! He was our family physician for many years and lovingly cared for us. His gently manner and love for man kind was always impressive. He gave of himself over and over again in ways of charity,time and hard work. He was very handy in the kitchen where his meals were just superb. May the Lord comfort the Rowan Family as they journey along without the Doctor. Blessings.

**Mr. and Mrs Edd J Mays** - August 12, 2016 at 09:16 AM



“ Dear Odessa &Family: So sorry for your lost.We are very sadden to hear that your love one has past. we will miss Charles dearly,We would have great times during our annual trips,He would always cook his famous soup for the group. May god bless you and the family during this most difficult time.

Calvin & Ora Milton,

**Ora Milton** - August 12, 2016 at 10:11 PM



“ Dear Odessa & Family we were all so saddened by the loss of such a wonderful and caring person, we have treasured a life long friendship for our entire time here in Toledo so you are like family to us all. Thank you so much for taking excellent care of my grandmother who had dementia. We have enjoyed the social events the laughter and the good times as well as the serious times and the sharing with our children and grand children as well; we extend our love to the family at this time of great loss and you will be in our prayers.

Love The Mundy Family

**The Dennis Mundy Family** - August 14, 2016 at 12:20 PM