

## **Dr. Jack C. Childers Jr., orthopedist**

Dr. Jack Cely Childers Jr., a retired pioneering Baltimore orthopedic surgeon, died April 29 of cardiac arrest at St. Joseph Medical Center. He was 72.

Dr. Childers was born and raised in Lexington, N.C., where he graduated in 1956 from Lexington Senior High School.



After graduating from Princeton University in 1960, he enrolled at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and during his third year of medical school decided to go into orthopedics. He graduated in 1964.

“I saw how much the teachers and practitioners enjoyed what they were doing,” Dr. Childers said in a 2003 interview with “Good Health,” a publication of Orthopaedic Associates in Towson. “I knew I would like it too and have felt that way through my entire career”.

He completed a two-year general medical residency at the University of Virginia and then worked at the University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill.

When Dr. Childers joined Orthopaedic Associates in 1971, there were few arthroscopists in the nation and none in Baltimore, according to the interview.

“I performed, as far as I know, the first arthroscopy in Maryland at St. Joseph Hospital in the fall of 1971,” he said in the interview.

“For several years, I was the only one doing it, and would consult at area hospitals performing the procedure for other orthopedists. Sort of ‘Have arthroscope, will travel.’ Now, of course, it is part of the standard practice of all orthopedic surgeons,” he said.

The Lutherville resident retired in 2003. In his retirement, he was a guest lecturer, and book and publications editor for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

He was an avid Chesapeake Bay sailor.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. May 21 at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, where he was an active member.

At his death, Dr. Childers was separated from his wife of 50 years, the former Sally Bosworth.

In addition, he is survived by three sons, Jack C. Childers III of Leesburg, Va., and Robert Childers and William Childers of Charlotte, N.C.; four grandchildren; and his companion of 20 years; Deborah Mikulski of Lutherville.

—*Frederick N. Rasmussen*