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DR. JIM INGRAM, USF LEADER, TAMPA HISTORIAN DIES AT 68

By LELAND HAWES

An endowed chair was established and named in his honor in 1982 at Duke University, where he obtained his own medical degree and served his residency.

A lifelong resident of the Tampa Bay area, Ingram attended Hillsborough High School and the University of Tampa before graduating from Duke.

Dr. James M. Ingram, chairman of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Medicine, died Nov. 7, 1989, at Tampa General Hospital. He was 68.

Ingram was considered an influential figure in the establishment of two medical schools in Florida -- the University of Florida's where he was a clinical professor, and USF's.

PIONEER ON USF FACULTY

After 20 years in private practice, in 1971 he became the first faculty member and founding chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the USF College of Medicine.

The USF department consisted of only Ingram and a secretary at the start. When he retired as chairman in 1987, there were 21 full-time faculty members, two part-time faculty and 20 residents.

During his period in private practice, he served as chief of staff at St. Joseph's Hospital and chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Tampa General Hospital.

NATIONALLY PROMINENT

Ingram served as president not only of the Hillsborough County Medical Association but a number of national, regional and state groups -- the
American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Foundation, the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society.

He was a director of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners, a fellow of both the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Surgeons. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternities.

A prolific writer, Ingram published more than 50 articles in medical journals and numerous articles concerning Florida history. Several of his pieces appeared in the Sunland Tribune, the journal of the Tampa Historical Society.

His second home in Boca Grande, Florida, nominated to the National Register of Historical Places, was the subject of "Journey’s End, The History of an Island Home."

KING OF GASPARILLA

Ingram was king of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla in 1978, also a director of the social organization. He was a member of the Tampa Yacht and Country Club and a member and lay reader of St. John’s Episcopal Church.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Conant; two sons, R. Leighton and Michael M.; one daughter, Ann Ingram Miller, and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Nov. 10 at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Tampa. A subsequent service was conducted for the committal of ashes to the waters of Boca Grande Pass. His family suggested memorial contributions to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the USF College of Medicine or to a favorite charity.

An obituary in the USF Health Sciences News, Winter 1989-90, added these comments about Dr. Ingram:
A Tampa native, Dr. Ingram often spoke of his excitement in helping to build the College of Medicine. He was chairman from 1971 until 1987.

Dr. Ingram said that in joining founding Dean Dr. Donn L. Smith in building the College, he had returned to a place of childhood joy. He said that as a boy he had fished in the pond on 30th Street with his father.

Dr. Ingram served on the search committee that hired Dr. Smith as the first dean of the College in 1970—and then reported his surprise when Dr. Smith in turn hired him.

Dr. Ingram’s prowess as a teacher led this year’s fourth-year medical students to dedicate their upcoming yearbook to him. Students praised his ability to integrate training in obstetrics and gynecology with medicine in general.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology intends to endow a chair in his name.