



Dr. John K. (Jack) Davidson, III
1922-2008

Born in Lithonia, eldest son of John Keay Davidson, Jr., and Laura Elizabeth Lovingood Davidson, John (Jack) was educated at Oxford College and Emory University. He graduated from Emory Medical School in 1945 in an expedited war program, and at the close of the war, served as area surgeon in Florence, Italy. After returning to Georgia, he established a medical practice in Columbus. There he met and married Mary Evelyn Coney (Bebe) and they had four children. In 1959, when an opportunity came for him to study with Charles H. Best, the co-discoverer of insulin, they moved to Canada where Jack earned the PhD in physiology in 1965 at the University of Toronto. For several years, he was a Professor in the Department of Physiology. In 1968, the Davidsons moved to Atlanta where Jack joined the Emory medical faculty and became founding Director of the Diabetes Unit at Grady Hospital. During his tenure the Diabetes Unit became world famous, providing education and continuing care for over 25,000 patients and education for thousands of professionals. Through his devoted care, including developing a diet and publishing a picture book for the illiterate, he saved hundreds of lives. The Diabetes Unit enabled a major expansion in diabetes research that has benefited patients all over the world. He authored three editions of the medical book, *Diabetes Mellitus, a Problem-Oriented Approach* used internationally as a resource for doctors. His research and clinical success in the treatment of diabetes won him international recognition. Maintaining their commitment to the University of Toronto, Mary and Jack endowed the John K. and Mary E. Davidson and Charles H. Best lectureships and awards there.



Mary Evelyn "Bebe" Davidson
1929-2010

Born in Americus, and reared in Columbus, Georgia, Beba was educated in the Columbus city schools, at Stratford College in Danville, VA, and graduated from Wesleyan Conservatory. Bebe married John K. Davidson III of Lithonia in 1952. While beginning their family life and supporting her husband's medical practice in Columbus, she pursued vocal studies and soloed for St. Luke's UMC, for weddings and funerals, and for Columbus opera performances and the Columbus Symphony. She once won the Atlanta Pops Concert auditions and soloed at the Fox Theater. In 1959, they moved to Canada where her husband studied at the University of Toronto. While there, she continued vocal studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music. They settled permanently in Atlanta in 1968. She was an avid gardener and became a watercolor artist. A Signature Member of the Georgia Watercolor Society, she was well known for her evocative paintings.