A Tribute To
Charles Donovan Smith, III, MD
“The best thing to happen to Pediatric Surgery at MUSC was the recruitment of CD Smith in 1978. His dedication to our little patients allowed continuity of compassionate care. He partnered the passion of a pediatrician with the craft of a surgeon.”

H. Biemann Othersen, Jr., MD
Emeritus Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Charles D. Smith
was born on July 29, 1942 in Memphis, TN. He completed his undergraduate degree at Princeton University where he led the varsity tennis team to win the Ivy League School Championship for four consecutive years. He majored in English but after a semester in organic chemistry, Dr. Smith decided medicine was his calling. He completed his medical degree in 1969 at Duke University and went on to the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Boston, MA where he finished his residency and fellowship in Pediatric Surgery. Following his fellowship, he served as an instructor at Harvard Medical School and in 1978 was recruited to the Medical University of South Carolina.

In 1998, Dr. Smith took a sabbatical to pursue a Master’s Degree in Science where he focused on Quality. When he returned to MUSC, as the Director of Quality, he dedicated his time not only to surgery but to improving the quality of care, equipment, and education for all patients. His commitment and compassion for patients, families and residents have made a difference in thousands of lives.

Since 2005, Dr. Smith has led the Pediatric Surgery educational “cookie” sessions inspiring residents and medical students as their mentor, teacher and physician leader. André Hebra, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, commented, “Dr. Smith always made it a priority to connect with students and residents — he enjoyed learning about their personal lives and he made himself available for them even after their surgery rotation. It was not unusual for him and Sally to have the students and residents at their home for dinner.”

“CD” is the quintessential Renaissance man. He is an avid cyclist, photographer, and a true family man. He is married to his childhood sweetheart of over 45 years and has 4 children and 10 grandchildren.
Charles Donovan Smith, III, MD

- Tenacious
- Dedicated
- Loving
- Compassionate
- Mentor

H. Biemann Othersen, Jr., MD, Emeritus Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Charles D. Smith, III, MD, Associate Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery, and André Hebra, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery
In my residency, I’ve had the opportunity to work with some great surgeons and gifted teachers, but I don’t think I’ve encountered anyone who gives so much of himself for his students and his patients. I think of you as a role model for what a doctor is supposed to be and I truly hope that in my life as a surgeon, I can touch people in the same way I see you touch the lives of children every day.

Craig Blum, MD
General Surgery Residency Class of 2011

“I think about you every day. Someone who’s willing to self-sacrifice at all times of the day in order to assure that they are giving the best care to their patients. I admire that about you greatly. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are one of the best physicians I have ever worked with.”

Puya Davoodi, MD
General Surgery Residency Class of 2009
“I believe in my heart that you are a large part of the reason he is breathing and smiling today. I cannot say ‘thank you’ enough for giving my son a chance at life.”

“Our family can never thank you enough for all that you have done for us! You gave us our son back and we will never forget you.’

‘P.S. He got his license and his happily driving his new truck all over town.’”
“...He’s the man. He’s such a great father. He’s stayed curious his whole life. And he’s given himself to something meaningful... there’s nothing more inspiring than the way he chose to live his life and those he chose to serve... in our family, he’s always been a hero.”

Taylor Smith
Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

Harriet Tubman