

Frank H. Bassett III, MD  
1928-

Frank H. Bassett was born November 19, 1928 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He earned a B.S. degree from University of Kentucky where he played football for Bear Bryant (1950). He spent a postgraduate year in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Kentucky and then served in the Korean War from 1951-1953, receiving both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Dr. Bassett earned his M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Medicine (1957) and completed his orthopedics training at Duke University Medical Center in 1963, with a 2 year United Cerebral Palsy Fellowship and a year at the North Carolina Orthopaedic Hospital.

Dr. Bassett began his academic practice of Orthopedic Surgery at Duke University in 1963 and rose through the ranks to become a Professor in 1973 while also holding a joint appointment in the Department of Anatomy. He maintained his interest in cerebral palsy and contributed scientific papers in this area as well as in sports medicine. To date, Dr. Bassett has published 1 book, 10 chapters and 73 peer-reviewed papers on topics ranging from basic anatomy, histology, and biomechanics of musculoskeletal tissues to clinical papers concerning the foot, ankle and knee. A classic paper on impingement of the anterior tibio-fibular ligament was published in 1990 and Dr. Bassett received the O'Donoghue award in 1986 and Cabaud award in 1991 for research concerning ACL allografts. He has also delivered 136 peer-reviewed papers.

Dr. Bassett is one of the pioneers in sports medicine, being a founding member of The AOSSM, AANA, the International Arthroscopy Association, and the Southern Orthopaedic Association. He continues to serve on numerous boards and committees of

professional organizations and orthopedic journals, and has been president of 4 orthopaedics organizations including the AOSSM.

Dr Bassett continues as an avid and prolific teacher of medical students, residents, and practicing orthopaedic surgeons and has been twice honored with Distinguished Teaching awards by Duke University. Duke also acknowledged his contributions to athletics and sports medicine by naming the road leading to the football stadium Frank Bassett Drive. Among his other numerous honors, were being named Godfather for the 1993 AOSSM-WPOA traveling fellowship and AOSSM's Mr. Sports Medicine in 1995.

Dr. Bassett has also been a guest speaker and visiting professor at numerous sports medicine venues in the world. What is less well-known about him are his roles as chairman for United Cerebral Palsy, The Salvation Army Boy's Club, and Easter Seal drives as well as other Duke University, Durham community, and state of North Carolina humanitarian organizations. He also founded the Bassett Society, which endows scholarships for current Duke athletes who are going on to medical or dental school.

Although retired from clinical practice, Dr. Bassett teaches anatomy to the Duke medical students while being a devoted husband to Anne; proud father of 3; and renaissance man reciting poetry, classic works in Latin, singing, playing piano, and regaling with jokes those fortunate enough to be in his presence.