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Philanthropist John Templeton Jr. Dies

Surgeon and prominent donor's family foundation awards the annual Templeton Prize

KRIS MAHER



John Templeton Jr. speaking to reporters in 2007 about the winner of that year's Templeton Prize. PHOTO: MARY ALTAFFER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

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John Templeton Jr., a surgeon and prominent donor who helped turn his family foundation into a global philanthropy, died Saturday at his home in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Templeton, who was known as Jack, died from cancer, said his daughter, Heather Templeton Dill. The John Templeton Foundation delayed announcing his death until after it awarded an annual prize on Monday.

Dr. Templeton most recently served as president and chairman of the foundation created in 1987 by his father, investor John Templeton, a mutual-fund pioneer who started the Templeton Growth Fund in 1954. During the past 20 years, when Dr. Templeton ran the foundation, its endowment grew to \$3.34 billion from \$28 million.

The foundation's annual Templeton Prize, valued at \$1.7 million, this year went to the founder of a global network of communities where people with intellectual disabilities, and their caregivers, live and work together.

The foundation says it focuses on "the big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality." Since its creation, it has awarded a total of \$966 million, including \$103 million in 2013, the latest year in which figures are available.

Before running the foundation, Dr. Templeton had a long career in pediatric medicine that began when he trained at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 1973 to 1975 under C. Everett Koop, who later became U.S. surgeon general. After a stint as a physician in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Templeton returned to the Philadelphia hospital, known as CHOP, in 1977.

During his career, he performed many surgeries on conjoined twins, with his wife Josephine, who is known as Pina, frequently serving as the chief anesthesiologist.

"We saw many, many things that were very difficult to handle," she wrote.

After serving as a pediatric surgeon and director of the trauma program at CHOP, Dr. Templeton retired in 1995 to head the foundation that bore his father's name.

Dr. Templeton personally contributed to many politically conservative causes. In 2008, he and his wife donated \$1 million to a California ballot campaign to bar same-sex marriage, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

He published two books, "Thrift and Generosity: The Joy of Giving," in 2004, and an autobiography called "A Searcher's Life," in 2008. In the former book, Dr. Templeton said a combination of thrift and generosity would lead to happiness.

He quoted John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, as saying, "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can." Dr. Templeton wrote, "We can all pursue Wesley's goal no matter how much or low little we have."

Dr. Templeton served on various boards, including the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Foreign Policy Research Institute, American Trauma Society and National Bible Association.

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JB

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