



## Dr. Robert L. Rackliffe

January 20, 1923 - December 26, 2015

Dr. Robert L. Rackliffe, beloved area Pediatrician, husband of Beverly Reeve Rackliffe, died peacefully at his home in Farmington Saturday December 26, 2015 with his loving family at his side. Born in New Britain, January 20, 1923, he was son of the late Mabel Foster and Frederic O. Rackliffe of New Britain. He attended local schools, graduating from New Britain High School in 1941. After graduation, he proudly enlisted in the Army Air Force. Bob was stationed on the island of Saipan during the Air War against Japan in World War II. Following his discharge from the service, Bob began the pursuit of his lifelong dream of becoming a Physician. He attended McGill University in Montreal, graduating in 1952 with a degree in Medicine. Bob ranked second in his class in medicine and 10th overall. Dr. Rackliffe chose to do his Pediatric Residency at Akron Children's Hospital where he was fourth year Chief Pediatric Resident. Upon completion of his residency, Bob returned to his hometown of New Britain where he and his wife, Jane, raised their four sons. Also at this time, Dr. Bob opened his practice of Pediatric Medicine on Arch Street. This was his dream come true and he continued to take care of the children of New Britain for more than 50 years. He served on the Staff of New Britain General Hospital for nearly 50 years. He was a Fellow of The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Hartford Medical Society. Bob Authored three medical articles, one of which was quoted in Dr. Paul Dudley White's book on heart disease. Another became the accepted treatment protocol for Stevens-Johnsons Syndrome.

Bob was a member of First Church of Christ Congregational in New Britain and was a longtime member of Shuttle Meadow Country Club until 2006. He enjoyed tennis, bicycling, skiing and golf.

Besides his wife Bev, he leaves three sons, Dan Rackliffe and his wife Jane of Ashford; Peter Rackliffe and his wife Vicki of Bethel, Maine; and Steve Rackliffe and his wife Meg of Lebanon; a daughter, Christy Rackliffe and her fiancé Benjamin Puffer of Collinsville; a brother, Rev. Donald O. Rackliffe in Massachusetts; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and an eagerly awaiting 9th great grandson; several nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his son, James Rackliffe; a brother, Foster Rackliffe; and a sister, Janet Menz.

A Memorial Service will be held Wednesday December 30th 11 AM at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 830, Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052. There are no calling hours. Burial in Maple Cemetery will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jim Rackliffe Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o New Britain High School, 110 Mill Street, New Britain, CT 06051. The Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "Send Condolences" at the bottom of this page.

# Tribute Wall

FP

“ *He touched children alright some in a good way some in a bad way!!*

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**Former patient** - April 25 at 05:16 PM

DB

“ *I remember Dr. Rackliffe very fondly. He was my first doctor - I remember his house calls. He had to pull me out from under my bed because I usually needed a shot or some nasty medicine. I was born needing blood transfusions this was before the rH vaccine in 1959 and my mom says in a few weeks time he was so pleased with my health he carried me out of the exam room to show off how healthy I had become. She said he had tears in his eyes and was so thrilled. That meant a lot to my mother. Even after we moved to a different town we kept him as my family's pediatrician. RIP Doc.*

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**Diane B** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *It was our privilege to be close friends with Bob. I never met a finer man. An ocean divided us materially but we stayed together spiritually, emotionally and lovingly as the word 'Bro' we used to call each other. You are sadly missed, Bob, but we know that we will meet up again in the next world.*

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**Peter and Brenda Dowles** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ On behalf of the Davidson and Pollowitz families I wish to express our profound sadness at the passing of Dr. Rackliffe. As my pediatrician I fondly remember Dr. Rackliffe's kind manner and professionalism. Not one to ever relish a Dr's visit, Dr. Rackliffe would make my visits stress free. Looking into my ears he would often say how he would see Mr. Green jeans or Captain Kangaroo much to my delight and amazement. After the visit, a trip to the treasure chest in his waiting room was eagerly anticipated. These were also the days of home visits and when Bob Rackliffe would come to see me or my sister Julie, it was like a friend came to call. Last year I spoke with Bob to tell him how his deep caring for others helped steer me to my profession as a Marriage and Family Therapist with a focus on clinical issues in adoption. Bob was delighted to hear about my career and he cared deeply for all his patients as if they were his own children. Words can't express the deep loss I feel at his passing. I'm so honored to have had Dr. Rackliffe as my Dr. and knowing him as a friend to my family.

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**James E Pollowitz** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ My mother Edith Mary Toomey was office manager and nurse for many years with Drs. Rackcliffe, Ringrose and Greenblatt. Our condolences to The Rackcliffe family and our honor to know him as our own pediatrician in the Toomey and Hagedorn Family. Wish we were home in Ct to pay our respects. Ann and Mark Hagedorn

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**Ann** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ You were an amazing pediatrician and an even better person. Your love and compassion will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace Uncle Bob.

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**Holly Berlandy** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ My condolences to Bev and her family. This brings rushes of work memories from the past. Dr. Bob was comfort and joy to local families for decades, in a different time.

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**Janice Eisenhauer** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

.Y

“ I'm sorry to hear about the passing of Dr Bob. He was my children's pediatrician from 1968 until they were 18 yrs old. He was a great Dr and because of him my husband has been 28 yrs sober and I never thanked him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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**.linda young** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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**.linda young** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ So very sorry to hear of Dr. Rackliffe's passing; he was my pediatrician a long time ago, I'm now 45, but he saved my life. I was 15 months old, and my mother told me that I had spiked a fever, and just wasn't myself at all. My mother brought me to Dr. Rackliffe's office on Arch St in New Britain and when Dr. Rackliffe examined me, and was unable to push my head down towards my chest, he told my mother to take me to the ER immediately. I had H Influenzae Meningitis; the hospital told my mother if she had waited much longer, I wouldn't be here today. Thank you, Dr. Rackliffe. May God rest your soul. Much peace and love for your family.

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**Susan Miller** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Steve, Meg and family. We were so sorry to see the news about your dad and grandfather. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Dick & Leah Tanger

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**Tanger** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Rackliffe family. Dr. "Bob" was my Pediatrician from the day I was born in 1964. He was also all 3 of my older brother's Dr. My mother, Theresa Blaszkowski Tomasi was an RN and insisted that all of us be under his care as she considered him the best Dr. He was the most caring, kind, gentle, compassionate and loving person with a great sense of humor. We all were very fortunate to have had him as our Dr. My deepest sympathy's to his family. God bless all of you.

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**Terri Tomasi** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ In the early 70's, after Dr Lund made a diagnosis on x-ray that led to tissue being removed and sent to pathology. After I rendered a diagnosis, the teenager was referred to a Boston hospital for life saving cardiac surgery. Dr Rackliffe was the pediatrician for this patient and he was kind enough to write a letter to the CEO Dr. Bliss Clark complimenting both Dr Lund and myself. I really appreciated this and it says a lot about Bob's character. Please accept my condolences at this time.

*David Krugman, MD*

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**david krugman, MD** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ SO SORRY TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF DR. RACKLIFFE. HE WAS A DEDICATED DOCTOR TO MY BOYS AND I TRUSTED HIS CARE FOR THEM.  
HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE!!

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**Paul & Gail Melluzzo** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My sons and I extend sincere condolences. Dr. Rackliffe was both of my sons' pediatrician, from the day they were born until they were in High School. Dr. Rackliffe was there for Paul and was the first to diagnose his ADHD, then called Hyperkinesis and encouraged use of diet to help him. He was a wonderful Doctor for both my sons.

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**Jeanne Bailey** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dr. Bob Rackliffe was a good friend of four generations of Fletchers. Today we wish to pay a heartfelt tribute to this fine gentleman, sportsman, citizen and pediatrician. We recall his fine care of my siblings and me and our two children and his pro bono care of the children of the Klingberg Center for 25 years or more. We remember him voluntarily taking and passing the Pediatric Boards again when he was in his early 70s because he simply felt he should. Truly he loved his profession, and always took time to give his patients encouraging pep talks.  
Dr Bruce T Fletcher and Family

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**Bruce T. Fletcher** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ *Dr Rackliffe was my pediatrician until 1985. He was such a great doctor. I was never afraid to go see him when I was sick because of the way he treated my Mom and my brother and I. Exceptional bedside manner. I wish my children's Doctor had half the bedside manner Dr Bob had. As I got older I would see him biking past my parents house on warm days. He always had a friendly wave and a smile. Thank you, Dr Rackliffe, for being you. RIP*

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**Phil Jackie** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to "Dr. Bob's" family. I have so many great memories of growing up with the Rackliffe family. Dr. Rackliffe always had a smile and words of encouragement. He was a positive person and will be missed.*  
*Bill Bray*

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**Bill Bray** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Dr. Rackliffe. He was my pediatrician long ago and I loved him. He was a great doctor and author. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Beverly Peters** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing - always considered him a second father when we were growing and still have many fond memories.*

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**Mike Buden** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *My condolences to Dr.Bobs Family and friends. Dr Bob was my pediatrician my whole childhood until I turned 18. He was a gentleman a man of great spirit and humor he was in the room as my mother gave birth to me in 1978 God bless you Dr.Bob your good caring practice as a true medical professional will never be forgotten*

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**Matthew Bielomyza** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *My condolences to the entire Rackliffe family. My brothers and I were among his first patients. He was always a warm, caring and competent pediatrician. When we were really young he used to come out to our house, carrying his black bag, to see the three of us. Years later, when I was getting married I dropped in to say hello, with my fiancée, which I think made him feel a little old. May God bless his soul, and give you all strength.*

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**Eric L. Gladstein, DMD, MAGD** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *R I P Dr. Rackliffe. What a great pediatrician!!! You will be missed.*

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**Lisa Marrero** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Thank you for sharing Dr. Rackliffe with us for so many years. With his passing comes the end of an era. So sorry for your loss.*

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**Debbie Parzych Kane** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Loved by many Hated by none..Bob was a Class Act... Such a great person. Saved my life when I was a child... I'm forever indebted to him.....R.I.P Dr. Bob.. You will be missed...*

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**Mark Rackliffe** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *My heart goes out to my cousin, Bev in this time of incredible loss. I remember Bob as a great humanitarian and he will be greatly missed by so many people. My thoughts and prayers are with Bev and her family.*

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**Susan Taraschuk** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *It is with great sadness that we have read of Dr. Bob's passing. Our family was with him from birth to collage. He was not just our doctor but a wonderful friend. He not only took care of our children but also us when we needed help. Loved his book and loved bumping into him and talking during the past 10 years. RIP Bob. You are now enjoying heaven.*

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**Lorraine & Jack Gibson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *Dr. Bob was the best Pediatrician a new Mom could ask for. He was gentle, loving, playful, and the children loved him. Dr. Bob knew our children well. He paid attention to history and treated accordingly. When we needed a Pediatrician and Dr. Bob was away, we missed him dearly, Dr. Bob always had the right answers the first time. Prayers to his family.*

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**Deb Tomlin** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Rackliffe Family. Particularly Peter, whom we were in religious instruction together at South Congregational Church.

*Dr. Rackliffe was my favorite pediatrician, I always looked up to him his mannerisms and the way he would treat us and speak with us, like we were adults. What a wonderful man, May he rest in peace*

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**Lana DeSimone Ogradnik** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ One of my doctors growing up. A wonderful and caring man. My deepest sympathies on Dr Bob's passing.

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**David Malinowski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ I remember Dr Rackliffe Fondly. Thank you Sir for all you did for the Kids Of New Britain. My self and family included. God Bless

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**Bettie Kellam** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Bob is a man I came to know, love and respect over the last 25 or so years. I only wish my three children and I could have had the blessing of knowing him for many more years. When my wife passed many years ago leaving me with a five year old daughter and three year old twin sons, Bob stepped up and gave me more strength, guidance and support than my own dad. He reminded me to look to my bible for true comfort and lasting strength. He introduced me to classical music by sending me a set of wonderful cd's. And some of the best days of my life were spent with Bob; Boston Pops concert at Tanglewood with Bev, vacationing at Green Hill Beach the legend of "raccoon run!", biking and celebrating life on Block Island and golfing at Shuttle Meadow. We have lost one of the great ones, a classic for the ages. God rest his soul and ensure Bobby hits 'em long and straight on every hole.

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**James Reeve** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM