



William J. Waskowitz

May 2, 1931 - December 4, 2006

Dr. William J. Waskowitz, 75, of Kensington died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on December 4, 2006. Born May 2, 1931, he was the son of the late Dr. David and Ruth Waskowitz and brother of the late Betsy Waskowitz Rider. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Hittinger Waskowitz and his three sons; William and his wife Martha Slater of Cleveland, Ohio, Robert and his wife Meghan of Avon, and David and Kimberly Simeone of Cromwell. In addition, he was the doting grandfather of grandchildren Jackson, Jacob, Samantha, Clarke, Addie, Hannah, Emily, John and Nicholas.

Bill was born and raised in New Britain and graduated from Phillips Andover Academy. He then attended Yale University for his undergraduate education. Following in his father's footsteps, Bill then attended Yale Medical School. It was during his years as a graduate medical school student that he met and eventually married his wife, Barbara Hittinger, in 1957. Interested in sports medicine, he then completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Oklahoma. Returning to New Britain in 1962, Bill joined his father's established medical practice and began his long career as a leading orthopaedist and sports physician. Early in his career, Bill was on the medical staff at the Newington Children's Hospital and focused on children's orthopaedics and hemophilia. He also cared for many high school and college athletes in the area and pioneered the use of arthroscopy at New Britain General Hospital, where he also served as Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery for

several years. Bill continued the long tradition of medical sports practice that began when his father was the team physician for the Teacher's College of Connecticut, which eventually became Central Connecticut State University. At CCSU, Bill helped to further refine the athletic training department and, in recognition of his efforts, was named Honorary Professor of Physical Education and Health Fitness in 1996 and was inducted into CCSU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999. Bill formally retired from practicing medicine in 2005.

Aside from his medical profession, Bill was an avid golfer and loved spending time with his family and friends. With his wife Barbara, he enjoyed traveling, skiing, dining and, most of all, laughter. Remembered for his wry sense of humor, Bill had a nickname for anyone he met and possessed a charm that often defied description. Carrying on the compassion that his father portrayed, Bill cared for any and all who needed his assistance.

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family requests that charitable donations be made to either the Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain Campus formerly New Britain General Hospital or the New Britain Museum of American Art. Calling hours will be on Wednesday 12/6 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A memorial service will be held at Central Connecticut State University and announced at a later date. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ From New Britain to Myrtle Beach, Ireland and Scotland we worked and played together, shared a bottle of "Old Sheep Dip" Scotch we simply had to have in Scotland, stayed in a Castle tower, worked over injured children together and supported each other. I witnessed many a fine club go soaring into the air in frustration that always resulted in a happy if sheepish ending. Some day we will again go forth and win our flight once again--as we always did. We were bad together and enjoyed every minute of it, and Barbara always chuckled and tolerated it.

Bob Rackliffe - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I was deeply saddened when I learned of Dr. Waskowitz's passing..He was my daughter's orthopaedist for many years and I always enjoyed talking with him. He had a special charm and warmth when talking with his patients and family members that always put them at ease. Whenever he came into the room to see her --he always said, "Madam, what can I do for you today?" I will be unable to attend the memorial service, but please know he will always be in our thoughts and prayers..Maryann Laroche

Maryann Laroche - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ All the tributes in the world can't begin to pay to "Dr Bill" the accolates he so richly earned and deserves. He was without doubt one of the most dedicated and caring surgeons that three generations of my family had the honor of having him care for them. He never felt that being a Dr. put him above the level of his patients and he had a knack for putting them at ease during the most grueling procedures. If the hospital doesn't name a portion after him, you can take comfort and solace in knowing that he will live on in the hearts of all who crossed his path for many years to come. He left a legacy that any family can take great pride in. May he rest in the eternal peace he so richly deserves because he has more than fulfilled his mission here on earth. Every time an Ortho surgeon performs at NBGH he knows he has big boots to fill after Dr. Bill operated there first and he helped to train many of todays surgeons, as well as setting an excellent example for them. Thanks Bill and God Bless.

Henry Syskowski - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ Greetings to the Waskowicz family,
Please excuse my absence at Dr. Bill's wake on the 6th of December. I was at a friend's funeral John 'Jay' Mellon of Bristol and received the news of Dr. Bill's passing when coming home after that service.

The Leonhardts extend their deepest sympathies to you and entered your names in the Methodist prayer circle as soon as we heard.

Many thanks to Deb and Merideth at the office for returning phone calls about the Memorial service at Founders Hall at CCSU. I understand that family members are to deliver eulogies then. The following is my contribution to the celebration of Dr. William Waskowicz.

After all the time Dr. Bill and I spent as patient and physician, he taught me a most important lesson in life. That lesson is one must accept the situation at hand. Acceptance is the key to any blessing or trouble that may come to one's life. When one can fully accept what is happening in life, only then can one find serenity and peace. Dr. Bill would look at an x-ray and say "This is the way the good Lord put you together. Like it or not here it is;" Those words of complete acceptance taught me how to change my attitude towards the situation and be OK with it.. Dr. Bill would also say, "Now here's what we can do about the condition;" and he would state the options and support the patient as best he could with earnest compassion and feeling. He could, and still can, impart this value to everyone who knew him, for we can teach this lesson to anyone willing to learn it. This is the reason I will always remember Dr. William J. Waskowicz, a man of faith and purpose.

Please pray with me, "Heavenly Father, We ask your blessing upon your beloved servant William J. Waskowicz, devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, trusted son and exemplary Christian. This day we celebrate Your gift of William to us. We miss him desperately. Give us the courage to live on in his memory and in his

example of a wonderful human being. God Bless and keep Bill Waskowicz. AMEN

Grant Leonhardt - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Dr. Waskowitz was my orthopedic surgeon from the time I was a teenager until the time he retired. He was an amazing physician who advocated tirelessly on my behalf. His diagnostic skills proved to be correct as I was finally diagnosed with the lupus he always believed I had.*

He was always so patient and willing to explain things. He was also very funny - Is there any female patient who wasn't called "Miss America" at some time or another?

I'm allergic to local anesthetics so Dr. Waskowitz had his own technique to make steroid injections more comfortable - he would sing to me in his mellifluous voice. At my last injection, he actually tried his hand at rapping! We were all laughing so hard we had to take a minute so he could actually give the shot.

Dr. Waskowitz often told me how thrilled he was that Bobby came home to practice with him. He was so happy they could work together.

Dr. Waskowitz was my favorite doctor. We had a complicated relationship that stretched decades but we both knew that we loved each other like family. With Dr. Waskowitz, I always knew that he had my best interests at heart. I appreciated the time he spent with me and the guidance and comfort he gave me as I got sicker through the years. I will miss his gentle wisdom, his never dull pants a very bright plaid and some whales come to mind, and of course his singing.

May his memory always be for a blessing.

Debra Dresner - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ I was saddened to hear about Dr. Waskowitz's death. My father, who died a couple of years ago, was quite fond of Dr. Waskowitz and always spoke kindly of him.

My condolences to Mrs. Waskowitz and the boys.

Tom Noniewicz - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ It is with great sadness that I learned of Dr. Waskowitz's passing this past week. In addition to hosting the 8mm "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein and Dracula" movie showings at his sons' birthday parties, I remember his kindness and general good humor in allowing me to observe his orthopaedic practice, an experience which helped me to choose that career path. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to his wife, his three sons and their families.

Neil M. Richman, MD - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Bill was a friend for over 50 years, beginning at Yale. Though we saw each other infrequently in recent decades a call from Bill always brought a smile and joy no matter how hard the day. He is badly missed and will never be forgotten. Barbara we love you and know you will come through this with the help of your wonderful family and many friends.

Jo & Hal Fallon

Hal Fallon - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Back in the 1980s, when I was a receptionist at McLaughlin Physical Therapy, in Southington, I was always impressed that Dr. Waskowitz would personally call to schedule his patients. It was apparent that he cared deeply for those people whom he treated, and this unique, extra touch was extremely refreshing at a time when many doctors treated patients like numbers. He was always jovial and opened the conversation by telling me a joke! Talking with him always made me smile!

A few years later, I worked at New Britain General and, although I no longer had direct contact with him, I often saw him in the corridors and observed a handsome, kind man, who genuinely loved what he was doing.

May priceless memories afford you comfort now and always.

Sincerely yours,

Lona F. Jortner

Lona F. Jortner - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ My thoughts are with Barbara and the boys at this time. My husband Stanley always thought the world of Bill

Liz Noniewicz - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Bill Waskowitz was a kind and compassionate physician. He treated family members with caring and a sense of humor which helped to ease their pain. Susan and I extend our sympathy to Barbara and the Waskowitz family.

Allen Kallor - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *Dr William Waskowitz will be sorely missed. He very kindly operated on my broken ankle twenty years ago and helped me out when I had a blood blister on my big toe in ninth grade. My Paternal Grandmother used to clean house for his parents, and my parents have an oil painting his mother painted that we cherish very much.*

Karen Talavera - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *There are few among us that can always make us laugh.... always make us feel good, just by being who they are. Drs. Wasky, as I called him, was one of those few. A truly compassionate, caring, extremely capable man... he was adored by so many. I was one of the many. I will miss him very much. Mary Jo Ronstrom*

Mary Jo Ronstrom - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Dear Barbara and family:*

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I sincerely hope that you will be able to celebrate Bill's life and not his passing, and that will bring you peace and comfort. You are a close family and that closeness will help you to get through this difficult time.

I wish you all peace and love,

Carmel Castlevetro

Carmel Castlevetro - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ I was a classmate of Bill's at Andover and Yale. Although we were not close friends, we enjoyed each other's company and would always remark when we met that, living so near each other, we should get together more often. I will always regret this missed opportunity and extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Harmon Leete - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ As a long standing member of the same union of orthopedic surgeons as Bill, I write this note of sadness on his passing. I will always see him as curious and enthusiastic about his chosen profession, the second in a line of three. Nothing gave him more pleasure than his son Robert joining him in practice. I can see his smile playing piano in heaven for any who will listen. May I extend special condolences to his lovely wife Barbara, and his son Robert as well as the rest of the Waskowitz family.

Ira - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I will miss seeing you in the grocery store and watching you beam with delight as you tell me about your Grandchildren. You will have a place in my heart forever....you may be gone but never forgotten.

Julie Anderson - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ TO THE WASKOWITZ FAMILY:

WE, CATERINA MADIA AND FAMILY, FEEL THAT WE HAVE LOST ONE OF OUR OWN FAMILY MEMBER. WHAT A TERRIFIC PERSON DR. WASKOWITZ WAS AND WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY ALL OF US AND FOR ALL THE GOOD HE HAS DONE FOR OUR MOTHER AND OUR FAMILY.

WE TOO, WILL MISS HIM TERRIBLY AND FEEL YOUR PAIN AND LOSS.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU IN THIS TIME OF LOSS AND NEED.

*LOVE,
CATERINA, ROSA, MARIA AND VICTOR MADIA AND FAMILY MEMBERS.*

MARIA MADIA-GARCEA - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ *Dear Barbara,
My deepest sympathy to you and your family on the passing of your beloved husband. I was so upset when I read the courant today. He was too young, as was Elliot. You take care of yourself, and call if you want to talk.
Sincerely, Wilma*

Wilma Sicklick - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Billy Waskowitz was a remarkable human being--a real MENSCH, with a wonderful sense of humor. I remember the hours we spent together composing ditties for the graduating house staff of NBGH. He had such a quick mind and such vicious quips, that kept me laughing. We all will miss him.

Abe Bernstein - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ William was a wonderful man and MD. I always enjoyed being around him because of his great personality and inticing learning experiences. He will be greatly missed.

William J. Coon - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ I first met Bill on a football field at Phillips Academy in 1946. Over the years our paths had not crossed until a reunion six years ago. Bill was the same warm, gentle, friendly, caring, and genuine man I had known when we were boys. My sincerest condolences to his wife and family.

Arthur C. Doran, Jr.

Arthur C. Doran - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Dear Barbara,
Bill's obit in today's Courant was noted by us with great sadness. We have lost a friend with whom we shared many happy memories, not to mention many, many laughs over the years. Bill fought an amazing battle against debilitating health issues, always supported by his loving family whose devotion surely lengthened and brightened his days.
May you all find peace knowing that he is at last at peace, a gallant warrior, a super doctor, dear husband, father, grandfather, friend to so many. He will be sorely missed.
Our love and prayers to you and your family. Love, Lynn and Jack

Lynn and Jack Cavo - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I was very saddened yesterday when Jay Sands informed me of Bill's passing. As an "old timer", I feel very fortunate to have known Bill as a colleague and more importantly as a friend.
Ruthie and I will be out of town tomorrow and unable to come to the funeral home to personally express our condolences at your loss.
Our thoughts will be with you at this difficult time.
Love,
David Krugman

David Krugman, MD - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *I don't cry easily but I cried this morning when I learned that Dr. William J. Waskowitz is no longer of this world. I have lost a very dear friend as well as a care-giver. Bill was one of those people God sends our way to make up for all the other insufferable bores who enter our lives. I don't believe I ever saw him without a smile upon his face. I'm thinking that perhaps St. Peter has taken a tumble and now requires Bill's services and so he has been called home. I shall miss this wonderful man terribly. I have been privileged to have known three generations of wonderful healers... men I could also call dear friends. Dearest Barbara, please accept my sincere condolences. Dr. Bob...the torch is now in your hands. May God comfort you in your hour of sorrow.*

Joe Arnone - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM