



Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard

September 17, 1927 - February 5, 2014

Dr. Ralph E. Woodard, 86, of Arnolds Park, Iowa, passed away February 5th in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the Stanford Hospice Cottages.

Born to Josephine and Ernest G. Woodard on September 17th, 1927. He attended school in Fort Dodge, Iowa and graduated from Fort Dodge High School in 1945. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball and received a football scholarship to the University of Iowa.

Dr. Woodard played his first Big Ten football game at the age of 17. He was drafted into the US Army after his first year of college - the U.S. 7th Division- and was honorably discharged in 1947. Upon discharge, he returned to the University of Iowa to pursue a degree in medicine. He was a four-year starter with the Hawkeye Football Team. While at the University, he received several academic Merit Scholarships, the prestigious Nile Kinnick Scholarship and was named to the Omicron Delta Kappa medical scholarship fraternity.

Following graduation from the University of Iowa, he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Jo Pray, on June 18th, 1950. They lived in Iowa City until 1954 when Ralph graduated from medical school. Martha and Ralph moved to Wayne County, Michigan for his internship at Wayne Co. General Hospital. Ralph was asked to return to the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City to complete a general surgical residency and thoracic surgery fellowship. Dr.

Woodard was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons in 1964. He moved his family to Fort Dodge where he practiced general surgery for 36 years at Trinity Regional Hospital. Dr. Woodard was inducted into the Fort Dodge High School football Hall of Fame and elected as the Charter President of the Varsity Letterman's Club for the University of Iowa. He was honored by the Iowa High School Athletic Association for providing free annual physical assessments for all junior and senior high school students during the years he practiced medicine in Fort Dodge.

Dr. Woodard retired from practice in 1995 and moved to Lake Okoboji where he loved to enjoy his family, a late afternoon swim and watch the Lake activity.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Josephine and Ernst Woodard. He is survived by his wife, Martha; a brother, Richard Woodard; a daughter, Dr. Debra (Edward) Leners; daughter, Mary Ann (Don) Cousins; and son, Dr. Tom (Darci) Woodard. In addition, Dr. Woodard has seven grandchildren, Nevin (Sadie) Leners, Noah Leners, Kyle Cousins, Kirk Cousins, Karalyne Cousins, Jenna (Tom) Harmon and Nick Woodard; and a great-grandson, William Keith Leners.

Services are scheduled as follows:

A visitation service will be held at Schuchert Funeral Home in Spirit Lake, Iowa, Thursday evening, February 13th from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm.

A visitation is also scheduled Friday, February 14th, 1:00pm-2:30pm, with a service at 2:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

A memorial Celebration of the Life of Dr. R.E. Woodard will be held on February 15th from 11:00am to 12:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the First Presbyterian Church of Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard*

February 17, 2014 at 05:16 PM

JN

My mother Norrine Noble wanted me to leave a note expressing her condolences. My father Dudley played football at Iowa with Ralph and they lived I think above them across from the stadium (Triangle court)?. My father graduated from Iowa medical school and I have a photo of him with a stadium flag that Ralph and Martha gave him. She remembers those god old days and their close friends . She is saddened for your loss. My mother now lives out here in ohio with me. ohnobs@aol.com

jeff noble - September 18, 2016 at 10:38 AM

JF

“ *Please our deepest condolence for your loss. We are the children of Joseph and Margaret Fank.*

Jim & Jolene Fank - February 15, 2014 at 08:27 AM

NF

“ *Please accept our heart felt condolences for your loss. We are the children of Carl and Clarabel Fank of Emmetsburg*

Nick & Kathy Fank - February 15, 2014 at 08:22 AM

LO

“ *Martha and Family My deepest condolense. I will always remember Ralf as a teen age when he wood spend summer at the nfarm, eyher Grandpa Fanks or our. I havent seen him in yr. ,but remmember the last time he stopped at the farm.*

Louise[Fank]Jenness - February 13, 2014 at 10:26 AM

MS

“ Sad to lose a colleague and fellow Trinity Regional med staff member. Not to mention THE Fort Dodge High School team physician when I started. We have missed you since you left Fort Dodge and the house across the ravine from us.

Michael and Carole Stitt - February 13, 2014 at 09:58 AM

KK

“ Dear Martha, Losing Ralph creates a void in both of our families. Jan and Keith have fond memories with Martha and Ralph dating from back in Medical School to the present. God bless you and your family. Please keep in touch.

Keith and Jan Knorr - February 11, 2014 at 03:05 PM

JF

“ Martha Jim and I are so sorry for your great loss and we pray that your memories will sustain you in this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you.

Jane Flood - February 11, 2014 at 08:26 AM

BE

“ Fifty years ago, Doctor Ralph fixed a badly broken leg of mine from a basketball mishap, he was a fine surgeon as well as a fine man. May he rest in Peace.

Bruce Eckerman - February 10, 2014 at 08:13 AM

NB

“ I am praying for God to comfort your family. I will always remember that million dollar smile on Uncle Ralph's face. He always made you feel like he was just waiting for you to call or come visit. What a wonderful man who ran the race well. I am sure he and Uncle Tom are together again tossing around a football. Love and God's blessings to you all. Nancy (Pray) Brenaman

Nancy Brenaman - February 09, 2014 at 04:41 PM

JM

“ In 1960, I was a 1st year surgical resident on Dr Woodard's ward during his senior year. Following an incident during which one of my patients signed out against medical advice, Dr Woodard taught me to recognize it, not as the patients' failure to understand but my failure to make him understand why he shouldn't leave the hospital. That valuable lesson was the basis on how I managed my patients during my 32 years of surgical practice. I never forgot where and from whom I learned it

James M. Caterine, M.D. - February 08, 2014 at 06:17 PM

MP

“ A wonderful brother in law and good friend. Tom and I had so many good times together with you as we watched our families grow and then have their own families. My prayers are with you all. I wish I could be with you at this time but will be there in spirit. My love to you all. Aunt Madie

Madie Pray - February 08, 2014 at 04:46 PM

AL

“ Thinking of you today.

Allen@Hospice - February 08, 2014 at 02:57 PM



“ Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard

February 08, 2014 at 02:37 PM



“ Martha and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Ralph will be greatly missed. May faith, family and friends sustain you now and in the days that follow. Sincere sympathy, Fred & Margaret

Margaret McKim - February 08, 2014 at 11:16 AM



“ Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard

Joan and Jack Benz - February 07, 2014 at 10:06 PM



“ Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard

Chad Schuchert - February 07, 2014 at 08:32 PM



“ Martha and family, we are so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. We will miss seeing you both going by on the golf cart, and also in church

Norlan and Rose Top - February 07, 2014 at 02:47 PM



“ Martha & family,
Our thoughts & prayers are with you.
Love,
Jerry & Kathy Welter

Kathy Welter - February 07, 2014 at 01:28 PM

RS

“ *Martha and family,
You are in our thoughts and prayers. We have over 40 years of
memories, but especially these last 20 when we reconnected at
Okoboji. He was a special person and he will be missed by so
many.*
Our love, Ron and Carol

Ron and Carol swartz - February 07, 2014 at 07:48 AM

JJ

“ *Dr. Dr. Ralph Woodard*

jack and sherryl jones - February 07, 2014 at 07:48 AM

EH

“ *Martha and family, We lost a wonderful person and friend. We had
so many great times together. Ed Hendrickson and Patsy Huenecke*

Ed Hendrickson - February 06, 2014 at 12:39 PM