



Dr. Barry Douglas Free

March 18, 1927 - April 11, 2022

Dr. Barry Douglas Free, 95, was welcomed into heaven on April 11, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 18, 1927, in Stettler, Alberta, Canada, the son of Lena and Douglas Free. He grew up in Canada, however in high school he spent one year in Petersburg, Illinois, living with his uncle, Dr. Thomas Plews. He married Dolores Moser on August 7, 1955, and established a home in Petersburg, Illinois.

He obtained his medical degree in 1952 from the University of Ottawa, Canada. Upon completing his formal education, he returned to Petersburg to assist Dr. Plews with his medical practice. With the assistance and encouragement of town leaders he established Menard Medical Center. Under his leadership the medical center grew to include a pharmacy and four physicians. Menard Medical Center continues to serve the community to this day. As much as he loved being a physician, he enjoyed being an entrepreneur. He served as a member of the board of trustees at the National Bank of Petersburg and eventually served as the chairman of that board. He became Chief of the Medical Staff at Memorial Medical Center and served on the Medical Executive Committee. He later served on the board and became the Chairman of the board of directors at Memorial Medical Center. Together with Dr. Robert Schafer, they renovated the old PORTA High School building into a health club and an apartment complex, they owned a nursing home and pharmacy in Petersburg and for a few years, they owned a herd of cattle. He

and his late wife loved to travel and traveled the world with family and friends. He enjoyed collecting antiques and spent endless hours at various auction houses where they made many friends. Other past time that he enjoyed were watching Illini sports with his wife, gardening and reading. He was a longtime member of the Central Presbyterian Church in Petersburg, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife. He is survived by his four children, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Children are Deborah (Rodney) Davis, Petersburg, Illinois; Barbara Free, Petersburg, Illinois; Cynthia (Michael) Rohman, Prosperity, SC; and Kenneth (Valerie) Free, Petersburg, Illinois. Grandchildren and great grandchildren are Ashley (James, Jillian, and Everly) Kveton, Petersburg, Illinois; Stephanie (Kyle, Hayes and Auggie) Wankel, Petersburg, Illinois; Daniel (Mary Allen and Eleanor) Rohman, Irmo, South Carolina; and Kyle (Courtney and Crawford) Rohman, Lexington, South Carolina. He would now say that, "he is floating on a cloud in heaven".

On behalf of the family, we want to thank all of the caregivers at Springfield Homes and to the many others that assisted and cared for him in any way in the last years.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, from noon to 2:00 pm at the Wankel warehouse, Petersburg. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Menard County Rural Fire District or the Menard County EMS.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting the family with final arrangements. Please visit hurleyfh.com to leave online condolences and share memories to the family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **21**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wankel's of Petersburg
18239 Kelly St.
Petersburg, IL 62675

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Barry Douglas Free*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Ron & Sue Sanert lit a candle in memory of Dr. Barry Douglas Free*



Ron & Sue Sanert - May 21, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Dr. Barry Douglas Free.*



May 17, 2022 at 05:32 PM



“ *Condolences to his family. He has left his foot print in Menard County in many ways. It was a pleasure to know him and his wife.*

Patricia Vig - April 24, 2022 at 02:33 PM

PK

“ Dr Free was a gentleman at all times with big a smile and cordial handshake. No matter when you asked him about a patient or administrative issue, he was honest and straightforward. He was a great role model for all the young physicians. I loved to talk to him and take his advice during my practice at Memorial Medical Center. It's with sadness I express my condolences to all the family members and may his soul rest in heavenly peace.
Dr.Prasad.Kareti

Prasad Kareti - April 20, 2022 at 11:04 AM

NB

“ I didn't know Doc for long but he sure brightened my visits to Spfld Homes. He was a beautiful engaging soul that just made you smile. I will sure miss him as I am sure the other family member at the Ranch will as well. God be with you Doc.

Nancy Bond, daughter of Dorothy Beck

Nancy Bond - April 17, 2022 at 08:33 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Barry Douglas Free



Larry and Mary Hundt - April 16, 2022 at 07:57 AM



“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Barry Douglas Free*



Larry and Mary Hundt - April 16, 2022 at 07:57 AM