



Dr. Robert J. Schafer

June 20, 1929 - May 12, 2020

Dr. Robert Schafer, 90, died on Tuesday, May 12 at Springfield Homes in Chatham, IL. Fondly known to family and friends as Doc, Bob or Pop, he had a high energy for life and living. He was born on June 20, 1929 in Wheeling, West Virginia, the son of Walter E. and Matilda (Schmidt) Schafer.

Dr. Schafer is survived by his children Mark (Jo) Schafer of N. Platte, NE; Mike Schafer of Indianapolis, IN; Bo (Carol) Schafer of Petersburg, IL; Gina (Chuck) Woodrum of Petersburg, IL; Ann (Kip) Strasma of Deerfield, IL; Tim (Paige) Schafer of Beaverton, OR; his grandchildren Jessica (Craig) Burnside of Lincoln, NE; Logan (Kristy) Schafer of Paris, France; Caryln (Clayton) Craig of Indianapolis, IN; April (Chris) Cox of Indianapolis, IN; Jolori (Evan) Thurman of Markleville, IN; Nick (Erin) Schafer of Springfield, IL; Lauren (Brent) Kulavic of Springfield, IL; Claire Schafer of Petersburg, IL; Lindsay (Mitch) Wissmiller of Spaulding, IL; Christy Woodrum of Athens, IL; Madalynn Woodrum of Sherman, IL; Taylor and Ashley Schafer of Beaverton, OR; and 16 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Helen Gantzer Stenger, wife Harriet, and daughter Mary Thurnau.

Dr. Schafer completed undergraduate and Medical School at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO, where he originally met Harriet (Moore). They

were married on June 11, 1955 and were married for 48 years, until Harriet's passing in 2003. Dr. Schafer served with the Navy in Hastings, Nebraska until he moved with Harriet to Petersburg, IL in 1959; he setup a medical practice with Dr. Barry Free at the Menard Medical Center, where he practiced as a family medical physician until his retirement in 1997.

Dr. Schafer also served for 24 years as the Medical Coordinator for downstate Illinois for the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, now named the Department of Financial and Professional Regulations. Additionally, Dr. Schafer served as the Chairman of the Medical Records Department for Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, IL for almost 25 years.

When he retired in 2015 from his Medical Coordinator position, Governor Bruce Rauner recognized Dr. Schafer with an Illinois State Medical Disciplinary Board Resolution, describing him as part of a "breed of physicians who enjoys medicine and keeping on advancements and developments since he became licensed as a physician in 1956, and is kind and generous to all those he has worked with at the Department."

Dr. Schafer was inducted into the Petersburg PORTA Foundation Hall of Fame in March 2018 for his community service and volunteerism as a past president of the PORTA School Board, PTA and member of the Foundation Board.

Due to the current shelter in place restrictions, there will be no public services. A celebration of life will be scheduled and communicated at a later day.

NOTE: In the next few days – in spirit – say a prayer and raise a glass of your favorite beverage to "Doc", sharing a story or two and smiling at his memory. Please come prepared at the future celebration of life to share your stories.

Dr. Schafer wanted to fulfill his father's expectations to "leave a place a little

better than when you first came.” He (and Harriet) did that — their legacy for all who knew and loved them.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to the Boys Town:

Office of Gift and Estate Planning

14100 Crawford Street

Boys Town, Nebraska 68010

Attn: Jeremy Belsky

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Robert J. Schafer*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Sympathy to the Robert Schafer family . He was admired and loved by citizens of Menard County. His smile will be missed. Larry and Barb Kyes and family*

Barb Kyes - June 05, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Great gentleman and Dr. Merrill Dierker*

Merrill Dierke - May 21, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ *I am deeply saddened by the news of your dad passing. I feel blessed to have met him and to have had him as a neighbor when he moved to Springfield. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.*



Linda Powell - May 20, 2020 at 08:45 AM

BS

“ Thank you all for the heartfelt words and prayers. A finer man I’ve never known, loved by so many. He never suffered (no pain...our prayers were answered), and never felt alone, we had access. Pop (Doc, Bob) passed in peace early Tuesday with my Sister’s by his side and we laid him to rest today in a private ceremony (sadly, the only option available currently). It saddens us deeply that so many couldn’t pay respect when they needed it most...Now. Please watch for a local “Celebration of Life” at a future date. He was adamant that his many friends “have a drink on Doc”. 😊 God bless. Bo Schafer

Bo Schafer - May 16, 2020 at 06:35 PM

BM

“ It is safe to say that I would not be a physician today, if not for Dr. Schafer. He was the first to recognize my potential and guide my parents to steer me towards the medical field. I am eternally in his debt.

Brad Higgason MD - May 16, 2020 at 10:11 AM

CS

“ Craig Schaeffer lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert J. Schafer



Craig Schaeffer - May 16, 2020 at 12:02 AM

JS

“ Pops was a good man, he enjoyed conversation, he had unlimited stories to go with his unlimited experiences.
God gained an angel
God Bless his family

Jim Schneider - May 15, 2020 at 09:20 AM



“ He was a great doc and a good man!

Karen Stroemer - May 14, 2020 at 09:42 PM

KP

“ My sincerest condolences, he was a wonderful doctor and a wonderful person. Kerry Purmensky

Kerry Purmensky - May 14, 2020 at 09:08 PM

CM

“ To Gina and the entire Schafer family our heart goes out to you. We were so shocked to hear of Doc's passing. He was one of the best neighbors ever and we miss him so much! Doc was such a wonderful person and we loved talking with him. You are in our thoughts and prayers. 🙏💕🙏

Cathy and Russ Milby - May 14, 2020 at 01:49 PM

JT

“ Sorry to hear the passing of Doc. He was such an inspiration to many! We will miss his sweet smiles and Love that he had for his community and beyond!

Prayers to all of his Family! ❤️❤️❤️

John & Lora Tibbs

John & Lora Tibbs - May 14, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of this.... I always enjoyed seeing him come into Stonebake when I waited tables there. Sweet man and unforgettable smile!*



Haley Glick - May 14, 2020 at 10:41 AM

ET

“ *Dear Ann,*

We were saddened to hear of the death of your father, Dr. Schafer. We know that this is a difficult time for you and your family. Words are inadequate at a time like this; however, please know that you and your family are in our prayers.

On behalf of Caterpillar, the HR and Talent Management leadership teams, we extend our deepest sympathy. Please let me us know if we can help you in any way.

Sincerely,

Eric Tolman

Eric Tolman - May 14, 2020 at 07:55 AM

JG

“ x



Jackolyn Gaddie - May 14, 2020 at 01:19 AM

SL

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Doc. He was my childhood doctor and I was friends with Ann as we were growing up as well. He was a great guy and doctor and will be missed by the whole community. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Susan (Bell) Leverton - May 13, 2020 at 09:42 PM

EH

“ Deepest sympathy to the family!



Evelyn Hildebrand - May 13, 2020 at 07:11 PM

PC

“ I remember decades ago I worked at New Salem Park an got stung by a Bee I was allergic to them so I had to go to the Medical center to get a shot. Doc Schafer was Who I seen he came in the room an checked me out an said I needed a shot so he walked out of the room so I followed he turned an looked an asked what I was doing an I said U said I needed a shot an he smiled an said Well I was going to give it to u in the room but I guess I can do it here Drop ur pants I politely turned an went back in the room he came in and was Laughing an said I hope I didn't embarrass u an I said no Doc I'm fine. I'll Never Forget him. Or any of the Doctors back then Schafer , Purdue , Newton an Dr Free I sure wish the 4 was still working at the Menard Medical Center. They Took their Time with U RIP Doc We All Will Miss U

Penny Willis Christy - May 13, 2020 at 06:28 PM

HP

“ One of the greatest men I’ve met. I so enjoyed chatting with him last couple of years as Bo would bring him out to Brookhills Golf Club to hit range balls and enjoy a fermented alcoholic beverage. Always smiling he was.

Howard Pillsbury - May 13, 2020 at 05:44 PM

CS

Worked with Doc. a lot at DPR, once I asked for an interpretation on my 2 Great Grandmother Sarah Lundy Sours, he wrote me a report on each medical word. A true friend and work associate. He will truly be missed. Prayers for all his friends and family.

Chuck Sours

Chuck Sours - May 14, 2020 at 12:01 PM

PS

“ Patricia Specketer lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert J. Schafer



Patricia Specketer - May 13, 2020 at 05:08 PM

SL

“ Doc was an all around great guy! He was always friendly and had the warmest smile, whether you were seeing him as a patient, or at his home playing with his kids. Thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Sharon Lounsberry - May 13, 2020 at 04:59 PM

ST

“ Doc loved aggravating me! Although Dr. Purdy was my physician of note, I saw Dr. Schafer many times for various health issues. He was the doctor to assist when I had my gallbladder removed. What a guy!

Sue Taylor - May 13, 2020 at 04:59 PM

JH

“ Doc was my doctor and landlord for many years. Loved his laugh. So sorry for your loss.

Jeanne Hogg - May 13, 2020 at 04:54 PM

RI

“ Im so sorry for your loss, Dr was a great guys as well as a superb physician he well be remember for his hard work and dedication to his community! My thoughts and prayers for his family and friends! RIP Doc!

RichardJordan - May 13, 2020 at 04:49 PM

ES

“ Our sincerest condolences to the entire Schafer family. Doc was truly one of a kind, a devoted father and husband, and a friend to all he met. He will be terribly missed and the world became just a little less bright, and fun without his smile and sense of humor. He brought me to Petersburg in 1979 as a partner in the Olde School Health and Racquetball Club and forever changed my life, I will be eternally grateful for our lives crossing. RIP my old and dear friend and mentor.

Ed Schainker - May 13, 2020 at 04:36 PM

JS

“ *What a great guy. Always a delight to talk with him. He will be missed. Condolences to the family!*

John & Norma Stiltz - May 13, 2020 at 04:11 PM

PT

“ *And leave it a better place, he did! Our sympathies and prayers for his family.*

Paula and Rob Throckmorton - May 13, 2020 at 03:58 PM

KP

“ *So sorry my thoughts and prayers are with the family*

Kris parkes - May 13, 2020 at 03:53 PM

MM

“ *Doc was one of our favorites! Always had a smile on his face. We are so very sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed. With sympathy, Paul, Marilyn and Ellie Montgomery*

Marilyn Montgomery - May 13, 2020 at 03:52 PM

GR

“ *Tom and I are very sorry for your loss. He was a great man, and a wonderful doctor. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.*

Grace Robinson - May 13, 2020 at 03:48 PM

MS

“ *Dad thought the world of you. Prayers for the family. Dr, Shaffer a excellent and caring doctor. In my dad heart he was a friend also.*

Marsha Ferguson Sarmiento - May 13, 2020 at 03:38 PM

NB

“ My sincere condolences and prayers for you all. Doc was on of my favorite physicians as a child and good neighbor to our family.

Nanette Montgomery Besd - May 13, 2020 at 03:25 PM

JM

“ When I got married and moved to Petersburg I needed a doctor. I asked around and what I was getting back was “ you will never go wrong with dr. Schafer and to this day I know I had picked the right one. He was compassionate yet funny. He will be so missed. Prayers for the family.

Janalyn Miller - May 13, 2020 at 03:22 PM

JB

“ Condolences to the family. I have known "Doc" for lot of years as he was my husband's doctor until he retired from private practice. He was a character 😊! Then when I was working at Menard Medical Center in the early 20s, he couldn't resist coming in to see staff and see how his former co-hort and former partner was doing and to make sure we were doing it right 🤔😊 very respected gentleman. RIP SIR

Judy Bryant - May 13, 2020 at 02:46 PM