



Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D.

November 4, 1934 - June 23, 2017

Charlotte, NC – Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D., age 82, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones after a brief illness that took his life, but never his smile, sense of humor or his kind and gentle spirit.

Born on November 4, 1934, in Cedarburg, WI, Ken, affectionately known as “Nicky” to family members and friends in WI, graduated from Cedarburg High School in 1953 where he earned eight varsity letters in basketball and football which lead to a coveted spot in the High School’s Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2005, at the encouragement of his beloved wife, Marilee, Ken founded The Cedarburg High School Golden Bulldogs Organization that has given recognition to past teachers, administrators, athletes and students at Cedarburg High School. This became an integral part of Ken’s life as he felt it was important to give back to the community and school that had supported him and provided him with a successful launch to his future in medicine.

After high school, Ken graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pre-med studies followed by his Medical Doctorate from The University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1961 at which time he was elected the “Outstanding Medical School Graduate.” Ken met Marilee Faust on a double date while at The University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1960, and on June 10, 1961, a week after Ken’s graduation from medical school, Ken and Marilee married in Marilee’s hometown of Dayton, OH.

Ken dedicated his entire 40 year surgical career to Miami Valley Hospital (MVH) in Dayton, OH beginning in 1961 with his general surgery residency. He then attended a surgical fellowship at The University of Michigan from 1966 - 1968 in advanced cardiovascular thoracic surgery maintaining a regular attendance as an alumnus of The John Alexander Society.

Upon his return to MVH in 1968, Ken began what would become recognized as one of the 50 Best Open Heart Programs in the country and on occasion ranked above The

Cleveland Clinic. After months of advocating funding for an open heart surgery program and borrowing a local hospital's 800 pound heart-lung machine that Ken would transport between hospitals in the back of his family station wagon, in November 1968, Ken performed the first open heart operation at MVH with success. Ken often credited the success of the open heart surgery program to the contributions and team work of the MVH administrators and multiple hospital divisions that were integral in supporting quality patient care and program development.

Ken's enjoyment of teaching and sharing his knowledge with students and residents lead him to become a Clinical Professor and Director of Wright State University School of Medicine, Division of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, from 1975 - 2001. Ken retired in 2001 at which time Ken and Marilee turned their family vacation home of 30 years on Kiawah Island, SC to their primary home where Ken maintained a presence at The Medical University of South Carolina instructing residents in ethics and moral issues in medicine.

Ken compiled a distinguished list of achievements, awards, and recognitions throughout his career including having been elected the youngest Chief of Staff Elect and Chief of Staff during his tenure at MVH and in 2002, a plaque with his name and accomplishments at MVH that has a permanent place on MVH's Surgery Wall of Honor.

Perhaps the most striking feature of Ken's career is that you would learn none of his accomplishments from him. He would much rather promote and mentor those around him than step even momentarily into the spotlight himself. He would prefer to tell you how much he loved his family, coveted his profession, and valued the ability that everyone, no matter their chosen occupation or role in life, could make a difference in the world and in the lives around them. Ken lived a life of passion and purpose and had a gift for approaching each day with joy and wide-eyed wonder. His uplifting spirit was an inspiration to his family and friends and to everyone with whom he came in contact. Ken knew no stranger and he carried love, laughter and happiness wherever he went.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents (Linda and Arnold Oberheu) and his beloved wife of 52 years (Marilee Faust Oberheu). He leaves behind to continue his good work on earth: Sister - Catherine Snider (Bruce) (Harlingen, TX); Brother - Jim Oberheu (Sherry) (Cedarburg, WI); Daughters - Dr. Anne Marie Oberheu (Durham, NC), Kristin Marie Oberheu Corn, J.D. (Jeff) (Mooresville, NC), Marilee Molly Webster (Dave) (Matthews, NC); Son - Ken Oberheu, Jr. (Beaufort, SC); In-laws - Gerry and Marlene Faust (Akron, OH), Fred and Laurie Faust (Kiawah Island, SC); Grandchildren - Lauren (23), Caroline (19), McKenzie (18), Gabrielle (16); and an endless list of families and friends, including Karen Kimsey, who together they showed great love, care, and compassion for each other

over the years.

Ken's family will receive friends on Friday, July 7, 2017, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Westbrook Funeral Home located at 1712 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, OH 45410. A Mass of Christian Burial to Celebrate Ken's Life will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church located at 1322 Brown Street, Dayton, OH 45409. Condolences to the family may be offered at www.westbrockfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the Cedarburg Community Scholarship Fund (CCSF) in memory of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D. and mailed to PO Box 654, Cedarburg, WI 53012 until a scholarship endowment fund can be established in Ken's name.

Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery

1625 Calvary Drive
Dayton, OH, 45409

Events

JUL **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

7

Westbrock Funeral Home
1712 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, OH, US, 45410

JUL **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:30AM

8

Holy Angels Church
1322 Brown Street, Dayton, OH, US, 45409

Comments



“ Peace and love to the Oberheu family. So difficult to lose such a wonderful father, I know. I have so many fabulous memories being in the Oberheu home in Oakwood and Kiawah throughout high school. I will always treasure those memories and my long friendship with Kristin. May your own loving memories fill the void left by him and may grace replace tears with smiles over time. Much love, Carey Johnson Morgan and family

Carey Morgan - July 20, 2017 at 05:31 PM



“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



Son - July 08, 2017 at 11:59 PM



“ I will miss and love you everyday that I remain on this planet. You were and are everything to me. I love you. I thank you and may God Bless us always and in all Ways until we meet again. I love you Dad. God Bless. Son. Kenneth H Oberheu Jr. Ken Oberheu, Ladys Island., South Carolina

Son - July 08, 2017 at 11:49 PM



“
Son - July 09, 2017 at 12:02 AM



“ Love
Son - July 09, 2017 at 12:02 AM



“ This man, meant the world to me. He was such an inspiration and friend, whom taught me tons as a heart scrub at the Valley. Always had kind words, great advice and so caring. When I had to leave my career due to MS, he was there for me...and I will always remember him telling me "you are still the same, you got this. It is only just a "new" kind of different". That stuck with me always. I love ya, K.O.!!! Until we meet again, fly high!! <3

All my thoughts and prayers go out to the family~
Tammy Smith



Tammy Smith - July 07, 2017 at 02:34 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Dr. Oberheu's passing. He was a kind man to patients and coworkers alike. I remember him mourning the loss of a patient, one evening, after a long day in surgery. He will be greatly missed. Carol Vance, R. N. (retired)

Carol Vance - July 06, 2017 at 07:05 PM



“ Molly, reaching out across the years (30+) to express my condolences on your father's passing. With sympathy and hugs, Susan Moss

Susan Moss - July 06, 2017 at 05:51 PM



“ Marge Thomas and family send all our love and prayers to you and your families!

Cindy Knipp - July 06, 2017 at 10:20 AM



“ Kristin, your dad left a legacy of love, laughter and kindness; undoubtedly, you will continue to honor his gifts. Prayers of strength for you and the Oberheu family.

Debbie Baker

Debbie Baker - July 05, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ From your Meritage Homes family in Charlotte. purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D..



Maurice B. Johnson - July 05, 2017 at 12:09 PM



“ An incredible man...a beautiful soul...an amazing legacy to carry on. May you soar high on angel's wings with your beloved Marilee, Dr. Oberheu.

I have the honor to work with dearest Kristin, my cherished friend. She is a light in my life, truly heaven sent.

Keeping you and yours in prayer,

Sheila Lemoine

Sheila Lemoine - July 03, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ Kristin, I'm so sorry for the loss of your dear father. I know you two were very close and this must be so painful for you and your family. He's in Heaven with your mom now and they are both together, smiling, having fun and watching over you and your family and I do hope that can bring you some peace. My deepest condolences. Prayers and love.



Lena Turbeville - July 03, 2017 at 09:11 AM



“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



Kristin Marie Oberheu - July 03, 2017 at 02:08 AM



“

Debbie Baker - July 05, 2017 at 07:52 PM



“ The center of our lives!



Lauren, Caroline, McKenzie, & Gabrielle - July 01, 2017 at 09:18 PM



“

Bit tacky but ok

ken o - July 04, 2017 at 03:42 AM



“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Kristin Marie Oberheu - July 01, 2017 at 05:19 PM



“ But tacky again but ok

ken o - July 04, 2017 at 03:43 AM



“ 9 files added to the album New Album Name



Molly Oberheu Webster - July 01, 2017 at 05:19 PM



“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Anne Marie Oberheu MD - July 01, 2017 at 06:09 AM



“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Kristin Marie Oberheu - June 30, 2017 at 11:47 PM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Kristin Marie Oberheu - June 30, 2017 at 11:41 PM



“ Kristen my condolences on the passing of your father, Dr. Kenneth Oberheu. You and your family are in my prayers.

Amy Buttle - Duke Energy Legal Department

Amy - June 30, 2017 at 08:03 AM



“ I worked with Dr Oberhue at MVH. He was an outstanding person and surgeon. Always pleasant ans available to the nurses. My prayers to the family. May he rest in peace

Karen Sarkozy Rhodes. CELINA/ Dayton Ohio.

Karen Rhodes - June 29, 2017 at 02:53 PM



“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Karen Kimsey - June 29, 2017 at 12:19 PM



“ I had a "dream" job as a Surgical Attendant afternoons and weekends at MVH during my high school years (1968 to 1971) while attending Fairmont West High School. Dr. Oberheu was my favorite doctor due to his friendly non-condescending attitude towards "the hired help". You could approach him just to chit chat or say hello, and he would smile and stop and treat you as though you were an equal.

I am honored to have known him and proud to have made sure that my duties were performed to assist Dr. Oberheu, and all of the doctors and nurses on staff at MVH, to provide the best assistance possible regarding the preparation of their patients for surgery. He was the kind of man that brought out the best of everyone around him. His smile, his demeanor, his "advice" to this "teenager" was remembered and helped me make some important decisions after high school. He was a man that one remembers, and missed being out of his presence.

I offer my deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Oberheu.

Paul Pflaum, Wynndel, British Columbia, Canada

Paul Pflaum - June 28, 2017 at 09:10 PM



“ I worked as a nurse at MVH and was blessed to have worked with Dr Oberheu Such a kind, well respected physician! God bless all his family!
Amber Furrow

Amber Furrow - June 28, 2017 at 06:37 PM



“ I am one of the many nurses that had the privilege to care for Dr. Oberheu's patients at MVH.. He is not only remembered for his expertise, but also for his kindness and great smile. My sympathy to all his family.

Barb Etter - June 28, 2017 at 10:22 AM



“ Karen Carter lit a candle in memory of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D.



karen carter - June 28, 2017 at 09:33 AM



“ Anne, Kenny, & Kristin, I am so very sad to learn of your Dad's passing. My most sincere sympathy to you. I will not be in town next week, thus will not be able to see you. I wanted to tell you how much I appreciated Mom & Dad during my years at O.H.S.
They were so very supportive of the choirs. I so vividly remember Dad comforting me when I lost Polly. You were so fortunate to have such wonderful parents. My thoughts and prayers are with you. "Z"

Neil Zimmerman - June 28, 2017 at 07:40 AM



“ Thx Mr. Zimmerman. It was many of us who had the good fortune to know and be inspired by your gifts and appreciation of music. Thank you. God bless. Ken jr.

som - July 05, 2017 at 11:31 PM



“ What a great human being! I had the pleasure to meet Dr Oberheu several times over the past few years and each occasion was a wonderful experience in which he shared his background perspectives, his love of our Cedarburg Community, and of course his broad experiences toward a common goal. He will be dearly missed but I think his goals and objectives will continue to advance as he had hoped. Rest in Peace Dr. !

Kevin Kennedy - June 27, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ I met him last year at the Golden Bulldog Reunion for the Cedarburg High School Class of 1966. His enthusiasm was uplifting. My condolences to his family.

Sue Miller, CHS Class of '66



Susan Miller - June 27, 2017 at 08:11 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D..



June 27, 2017 at 05:04 PM



“ A good friend and colleague who I very much respected.
Dr and Mrs Philip Minella.

Philip A Minella M.D. - June 27, 2017 at 03:14 PM



“ Larry and Barbara Burke purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D..



Larry and Barbara Burke - June 27, 2017 at 02:59 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D..



June 27, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“ From the Medical Directors of BCBSNC purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Kenneth H. Oberheu, M.D..



From the Medical Directors of BCBSNC - June 27, 2017 at 10:13 AM



“ Kristin, I only met your father once but it was clear how much you treasured him, and he you. He truly seemed like a wonderful person. My sympathies to you and your family. My family will pray for yours.

Heather Shirley Smith

Heather Shirley Smith - June 27, 2017 at 09:30 AM



“ We are wrapping you in our hugs from afar. We were blessed to know both of your parents, and we pray that you are comforted at this difficult time. They are reunited, healed and whole! Love to you!

Kimberly, Bobby & Morgan Rimmer

Kimberly Rimmer - June 26, 2017 at 10:38 PM



“ My heart is so sad that I have lost a friend. Ken believed in preserving history, and he gave me that vehicle to do so. I was truly honored to capture the memories made at the Golden Bulldogs reunions. Ken welcomed me into his family, and shared with me every year the highlights of his grandchildren. God made me cross paths with a man that changed my life for a reason. He makes me remember what Maya Angelou has said ~

““I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

All My Love : Laura Bruederle



Laura Bruederle - June 26, 2017 at 10:35 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Laura Bruederle - June 26, 2017 at 10:21 PM



“ Dear Oberhue Family,
Our deepest condolences on the loss of your beloved father. He truly was a scholar,a gentle spirit and a truly wonderful man. He was be greatly missed by all his friends and family. I was so happy to have spent time with him last year in NYC. I will always remember his beautiful smile and kind heart. We will miss you Dr .Ken. May you Rest In Peace with your beautiful Marilee.

Giuliana, Araldo, Ariella Katiaand Alessia

Giuliana Di Girolamo - June 26, 2017 at 06:23 PM