



Dr. Larry L. Richards

December 24, 1936 - June 6, 2020

The funeral Mass for Dr. Larry L. Richards will be Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 10:30am at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jefferson with his family. All are invited to the burial in Franklin Twp. Cemetery, Cooper. The graveside committal will begin at approximately 11:50am Saturday. Military rites will be conducted by the United States Navy Honor Guard, and Albaugh-McGovern American Legion Post #42.

Dr. Larry Leonard "Doc" Richards passed in the loving arms of his family on June 6, 2020. "... The thing that makes you special is your kind and gentle heart. And when a Doctor cares as much as you sincerely do, the world becomes a better place, no doubt, because of you." Tribute from his Nursing Staff

Larry was welcomed on December 24, 1936 by his parents Pearl Prescott and Clara Leonard Richards and siblings Donald, Robert, Betty, Marion, Tom, William, Kenneth, Dorothy in Garden Grove, Iowa. As a 1955 Garden Grove High School graduate, Larry was an All-State musician, football, basketball, track and baseball athlete. Following the steps of his father and five brothers, Larry enlisted in the Navy upon graduation. At Simpson College, Larry served as President of his 1960 Centennial Class, S Club, Phi Mu Alpha-Sinfonia and co-captain of the Simpson Football team. Larry was named as a 1958 All-American Methodist University and College Elevens gridiron football player with qualifications that include "...performed brilliantly on the gridiron." The All American Team with Larry at the center position was featured in the national Together Journal. He was a member of the Simpson Band, Kappa Theta Psi Fraternity and worked as an assistant football coach, dormitory proctor and dining hall head waiter.

It was at Simpson College where Larry met his forever love, Mary Anderson whom he married on April 23, 1960 in Jefferson, Iowa. The love of family radiated forever in his life. Earning his music degree in 1960, the Simpson Sweethearts taught in Stuart, Iowa for one year. Larry knew early in his life his purpose was to serve as a physician.

Dr. Richards graduated from the Kansas City University of Medicine/KCCOMS where he

was involved with the Medical School Chorale. Larry completed his Family Practice residency at Mount Clemens General Hospital in Detroit, MI. Upon their return to Iowa, Dr. Larry and Mary built the Altoona Medical Center where Doc Richards practiced for seven years and served as the Southeast Polk School physician, leaving for a residency and more time with his family. He encouraged and assisted his children with their music and school lessons and coached his daughters in AAU, ASA and Ankeny sports. He continued to sing in choirs and play in bands.

After completion of his board-certified psychiatric physician residency, Drs. Larry and Mary established the Richards Psychiatric Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Richards implemented electro-convulsive therapy under anesthesia to the Des Moines area and served as Medical Director at Charter Psychiatric Hospital. He was on the hospital medical staffs at Des Moines General, Iowa Methodist, Iowa Lutheran and Mercy. Dr. Richards worked with law enforcement to take his patients for stabilization to the hospital rather than jail.

Dr. Richards completed a Child and Adolescent Fellowship as Chief Fellow in the psychiatry department at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. His published research areas included electro-convulsive therapy, child adolescent school phobia, school refusal, avoidance disorders. Dr. Richards served as University of Iowa assistant clinical professor practicing as a board certified child and adolescent psychiatric physician at Tanager Place and Four Oaks in Cedar Rapids and medical staff at Saint Luke and Mercy hospitals. Dr. Richards enjoyed lecturing at professional conferences and teaching medical students and residents during his 53 years of practice. Always an advocate for family practice physicians, it was with joy his daughter became Dr. Jennifer.

As members of St. Theresa Catholic Church (Des Moines) and St. Joseph Catholic Parish (Jefferson), Drs. Richards and Bishop Richard Pates began the annual Mass for Mental Health Awareness in the Des Moines Diocese. Annually Drs. Larry and Mary Richards met with the Governor of Iowa for the signing of the Proclamation for Children and Adolescent Mental and Brain Health Awareness Day.

Dr. Richards is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). He holds life membership in the American Osteopathic Association, APA, AACAP, American Legion-Garden Grove and Albaugh McGovern Posts.

Dr. Richards served on the boards of the Iowa Psychiatric Physicians Society (Public Affairs), Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association, Ankeny Youth Sports, Gov. Branstad's

Policy Committee on Organ Transplants.

His loving survivors include his wife of sixty years Mary, daughters Dr. Jennifer Elizabeth (Dan) and Melinda Kathleen (William) and children Mary, Edward, Kathleen, Lara Gross, sister Dorothy, brother Gary, nephews, nieces and forever friends.

His joy of agriculture and gardening with formulas was taught to his children on how to grow Doc Richards tomatoes and potatoes which he gave to others, vegetables, peonies on the Richards Century Farm.

He was a member of Des Moines Metro Opera, SAPIC, Iowa Barn Foundation.

Dr. Richards legacy continues under the aegis of Mary to observe Children Mental Health Awareness Day and the Mass for Mental Health Awareness.

Larry 'performed brilliantly on the gridiron' and in this world as a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, physician, community leader. Have Hope!

Cemetery

FRANKLIN TWP. CEMETERY

2040 P Avenue

Jefferson, IA, 50129

Events

JUN **Graveside Service** 11:50AM

20

FRANKLIN TWP. CEMETERY

2040 P Avenue, Jefferson, IA, US, 50129

Comments



“ Sending Condolences to the family, from staff at Four Oaks.

Saleemah Gibbs - June 24 at 10:12 PM



“ RIP Dr. Richards. Four Oaks will miss you. Thank you for your many years of service to the kids.

Michelle Allmandinger - June 24 at 03:14 PM



“ I was a patient of his he was the best. He truly listened to me and cared I will miss him

Patti Allen - June 29 at 03:43 PM



“ My deepest Sympathy for your Loss. I worked with him at the Abbe Center. Prayers to Mary and his family

Georgia Peak - June 22 at 03:34 PM



“ Larry's Dad and my Mom's Dad Oren were brothers So sorry for your lost.

Barbara Parmer - June 19 at 12:25 PM



“ Larry was my friend, my mentor,my teacher and my healer.
My condolences to Mary and family. RIP. You will be missed by many my friend. A great personal loss and loss to the medical community.

niru - June 18 at 03:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Larry L. Richards.



June 17 at 11:12 PM



“ Although we never met, our combined love for Mindy will always unite us. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in this time of sorrow. Rest in peace, Dr. Richards.

Joan Bratt Christeleit and Family

Joan Christeleit - June 17 at 03:50 PM



“ June 14, 2020

Dr Richards was a wonderful mentor for me when I was in high school. I worked at the Altoona Family Practice Center in 1974. He taught me many things about medicine. The best gift he ever gave me was courage and the self confidence to go to nursing school. In fact he insisted it. I have been a nurse for 40 years and still working. I also remember his teaching for perfection with everything he did. He had me plant corn behind the office one day. Upon completion he asked how deep I planted the corn. I planted the corn way to deep and he made me go out and do it again. I was upset . That lesson stuck with me my entire life. Do it right the first time. The world has lost a wonderful talented man . My heart goes out to his entire family and everyone he touched. I will forever be grateful that he touched my life. Rest in peace Dr Richards.

Susan Strasburg
Friend

Susan Strasburg - June 16 at 12:40 AM



“ Mary and family,

My name is Cindy Warren Andrew and my mom Ruth Warren Stientjes was a nurse and worked with Larry's medical practice in Altoona. They were quite a team! If memory serves I think you and Larry kept in touch with Mom after I moved her and Gene from Pella to Edencrest Assisted Living in Johnston. Unfortunately she and her husband Gene both passed within a year of each other but I know she would want me to reach out and extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family. I remember Larry fondly as he was my doctor and my daughter's doctor. He was a kind man and I am honored to have known him. May it comfort you to know I care and as you celebrate his wonderful life and enjoy the memories I will keep you close in prayer.

With sympathy and love,
Cindy Warren Andrew and family

Cindy Andrew - June 15 at 09:44 AM



“ Though I did meet and speak with Larry several times, most of our contact was with his daughter Jennifer. This gave us wonderful insights into the kind of parents that she had, and it stands as a true living legacy to Larry and his wife that their values live on in their children. May the Lord bless and comfort those who remember him.

Phill&Jan Webber - June 15 at 09:00 AM



“ I read Larry's obituary in the paper this morning. My mind was flooded with many wonderful memories, starting in Garden Grove. Coach Bob always had a special place in his heart for Larry.

My sincere sympathies to you and your family,
Louise VanderLinden

Louise VanderLinden - June 14 at 09:15 PM



“ Our sympathies to Mary and family. Carole Custer, Bell Tower Community Foundation board of directors

carole custer - June 14 at 04:18 PM



“ Sending deepest sympathy to the family. Mindy was in elementary school with our daughter Renae Hummel. We enjoyed having Mindy coming to our house to play with Renae. Our hearts go out to all of you.

Ron and Beverly Hummel, Ankeny
Renae Hummel Verduyn

Beverly Hummel - June 14 at 12:53 PM



“ Thank you so much Mrs. Hummel

Melinda(Mindy) Richards-Gross - June 14 at 12:59 PM



“ Mary; so sorry to hear about Larry. May God's love surround you and your family and may His comfort guide you all thru this time of grief. I always enjoyed the times Larry & I got to chat about medicine and pharmacy and the times the girls and I would come out to your house south of Ankeny,

Praying for the family Larry & Lois Hurst

Larry L Hurst - June 15 at 05:36 PM



“ Dearest Mary,
Allen and I send our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Larry helped me through a very rough time after we first moved to Iowa. I had to bring Josh with me several times and he called Larry “the talking doctor”. You’ll never know how much I appreciated his help and your family’s friendship through the years. I still refer back to his words of comfort to this day. He was a special person who will always remain in my heart. We grieve with you and the girls and hope wonderful memories will someday replace the sorrow you feel today.

With much love,
Allen and Gail Zagoren



Gail Zagoren - June 14 at 10:31 AM



“ Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family . Steve and Donna Story

Steve and Donna Story - June 13 at 07:21 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Larry L. Richards.



June 12 at 04:38 PM



“ Mary and family. I am so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I will have all of you in my thoughts and prayers
Julie Kipp

Julie Kipp - June 08 at 10:57 PM



“ Mary and family. I am so very sorry to hear this sad news. Will surely be thinking of all of you? RIP

sandy miner - June 06 at 03:15 PM