

## Obituaries

 **GEORGE N. COOPER, JR., MD**, of East Greenwich, passed away peacefully on December 13, 2020. A cardiovascular surgeon and pioneer in valve replacement surgery, Dr. Cooper was deeply dedicated to providing excellent and compassionate care to all his patients and has made a difference in the lives of so many. He graduated from Seton Hall Medical School in 1961 and completed his internship, residency and two years active duty as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force in from 1966–1968. He also proudly served his country as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1981 to 1991.



In 1971, he moved with his family from Milwaukee, WI, to Edgewood, RI, and began a successful surgical practice that spanned nearly 35 years at Rhode Island Hospital and Kent Hospital. He went on to establish the Northeast Vein and Laser Center in Warwick, RI, retiring in 2020.

A deeply faithful man with a great love for his country, George Cooper's greatest love was his family. He recently said, "I was blessed with nine children, each a precious jewel and uniquely gifted," while sharing a wise proverb, "for each suffering there are also a thousand joys."

After moving to Rhode Island, it was sailing that became his other great love. Self-taught at first, he applied his innate drive and passion to becoming a true yachtsman who derived and generously shared his soul-expanding joy of sailing and racing around Narragansett Bay for almost 50 years. And, so in honor of his life, his great loves, his many contributions, and the joy he shared with so many, we bid him a fond and loving farewell. Fair winds, following seas, and Godspeed on your final, infinite voyage, Captain.

Dr. Cooper is survived by his wife of 38 years, Ann Biderman Cooper, and his two sisters Loretta Witt (husband Tom) of West Germantown, PA, and Margaret Cooper of Chestnut Hill, PA. He was predeceased in 2007 by his brother James Cooper (wife Kum Son) of Spanaway, WA; and in 2014 by his wife of 20 years, Mary G. Cooper (Lillis) of East Greenwich, RI.

He is also survived by his nine children: Cecilia Cooper of Warwick, Mary Clare Brandt (husband John Brandt) of Marlton, NJ; Maureen MacPhail (husband Douglas MacPhail) of East Longmeadow, MA; George N. Cooper III (wife Lisa Cooper) of East Greenwich; Lorraine Hamilton (husband Neal Hamilton) of Plainville, MA; Roseann Ferri of North Kingstown; Timothy Parker of Newport; Caroline Leitao (Husband Ian Leitao) of Newport; and Jonathan Cooper (husband Matthew Ryan) of New York, NY; and his nine grandchildren: Mia Cooper, John (Jack) Brandt III, Kevin Brandt, Liam Hamilton, Douglas MacPhail, George MacPhail, Charles Ferri, Luisa Ferri, and Griffin Cooper. ❖

**DAVID C. LEWIS, MD**, 85, passed away at his home on December 2, 2020. He was the beloved husband of the late Eleanor (Levinson) Lewis. Dr. Lewis brought an intensity of curiosity and purpose to all of his endeavors from medicine and addiction studies to nature photography. He was a pioneer in the medical field of addictions. Throughout his career he advocated for compassionate and scientifically appropriate treatment for addicts, and proper training for all physicians. He was the Professor Emeritus of Community Health and Medicine and the Donald G. Millar Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Alcohol and Addiction Studies at Brown University.



Dr. Lewis was a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Medical School. In 1982, he founded the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies and directed the Center for eighteen years. Prior to founding the Center, he was Chair of the Department of Community Health at Brown. He founded a think tank of physicians and lawyers advocating for prevention and treatment over incarceration for substance use disorders called Physicians and Lawyers for National Drug Policy (PLNDP).

Dr. Lewis was a member of numerous Boards of Directors, including the Drug Policy Foundation, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) and the Coalition on Physician Education in Substance Use Disorders (COPE).

A true academic at heart, he advised Presidents, members of Congress, Governors, philanthropists in all aspects of the field of addiction, from recovery to decriminalization and legalization of drugs. He was always seeking to learn more about the challenges around addictions. Dr. Lewis was the author of over 400 publications, and has an international reputation for his work on prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, medical education and public policy.

He was a lifelong lover of photography and traveled the world extensively with his wife, Eleanor, for adventure and photo opportunities. He was an active member of the North American Nature Photography Association and the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. His work can be seen at: [www.davidclewisphotography.com/](http://www.davidclewisphotography.com/).

He is survived by his children, Deborah Lewis (Martin Myers) and Steven Lewis (Laura Wiessen); and grandchildren Frieda Myers, Levi Myers, Noa Lewis and Rose Lewis. His children and grandchildren were the light of his life. From singing songs to telling stories, he loved nothing more than being with family. Contributions in his memory may be made to the New Israel Fund, PO Box 177, Lewiston, ME 04243. ❖



**CHARLES J. McDONALD, MD**, 89, an internationally recognized dermatologist/oncologist died on Sunday, January 10, 2021, after a long illness. He was the son of the late George B. McDonald and Bertha Harbin McDonald Nixon and the stepson of Mr. Thomas Nixon. He also leaves his only sibling, sister Laura Nixon.

Dr. McDonald was born in Tampa, Florida in 1931 and lived in Bristol, Rhode Island for the last 36 years with his wife, Maureen (McDonald) McDonald. They were married for just under 40 years.

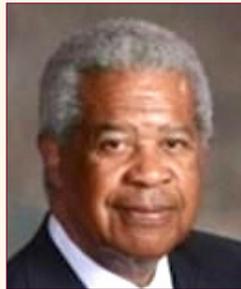
In addition to his wife, Dr. McDonald is survived by his four children: Charlesetta Arline, Marc McDonald, (Brenda), Norman Douglas McDonald (Sara), and Eric McDonald (Valerie Cook). He was proud of his grandchildren and the growing number of his great grandchildren, as well as his Massachusetts and Connecticut nieces and nephews and their families.

A pioneer in translational research, bringing proven research advances from the laboratory to application at the bedside or in the office, Dr. McDonald has been recognized in Best Doctors in America and America's Top Doctors for two decades. He has lectured at medical schools and conferences throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America on the use of cancer drugs (cytotoxic and immune modulating agents) in non-cancerous systemic illnesses and skin diseases. His research and experience in these areas and in the development of safe and effective treatments for skin cancer and systemic autoimmune diseases have been published in some 200 scientific articles, book chapters and his own textbook.

As founding chairman of the Brown University Medical School's Department of Dermatology, Dr. McDonald has trained hundreds of medical students and Dermatology residents. He was honored by the Brown Medical School Alumni with their highest award for "teaching, mentoring, and contributions to the community both locally and nationally," the W.W. Keen Award. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Howard University College of Medicine; Howard University's Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement Award in the fields of Medicine and Community Service; and the Candle in Medicine Award from Morehouse College, among many other academic citations.

Long active in the professional associations of his field, Dr. McDonald served as president of the American Dermatological Association, as an officer of the American Academy of Dermatology, the Residency Review Committee for Dermatology, and as a board member of a number of related organizations in Dermatology and Medicine.

Dr. McDonald was a member of the FDA Advisory Panel for Dermatology, a member of the first National Advisory Board for the National Institute for Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin



Diseases, and served on numerous committees and study groups of the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science.

A member of the Howard University Board of Trustees for twenty years, Dr. McDonald chaired the Advisory Board to the Cancer Center of the College of Medicine, and was vice chair of the Board's Health Affairs Committee.

Active in the affairs of the American Cancer Society for three decades, Dr. McDonald became national president of the American Cancer Society in 1998, the only dermatologist ever to have held that post. During his tenure, Dr. McDonald led new efforts to improve diversity within the organization, coalesced national program efforts in childhood cancer, and spearheaded new program initiatives in prostate cancer in African American men.

Among local and regional positions of leadership, Dr. McDonald was a member of the Rhode Island State Board of Education, a trustee of Citizens Bank, a trustee of the Providence Public Library, and a member of the group of founders of the Providence Health Centers. He was a member of the executive board of the New England Regional Manpower Development Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For some ten years, Dr. McDonald served as a trustee of Lifespan, the largest health provider in southern New England. He was inducted into the Rhode Island Hall of Fame in 2013. In 2014, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Health degree from Rhode Island College. In Rhode Island, Dr. McDonald received awards for community service from the NAACP, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, the Ministerial Alliance, the John Hope Settlement House and the Urban League. For several years he proudly served as a trustee of Bryant University. In 2012, he was honored by the Rhode Island Medical Society with the Charles L. Hill Award for "leaving a magnificent legacy of caring and accomplishment."

Dr. McDonald earned his undergraduate degree in Chemistry at North Carolina A&T University at age 19, followed by a Master's Degree in Zoology at the University of Michigan. In 1952, he joined the United States Air Force, serving as a flight officer and intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command and achieving the rank of Major. In 1956, he entered Howard University Medical School, graduating first in his class in 1960. He completed residencies in internal medicine and dermatology; and a fellowship in clinical pharmacology and medical oncology at Yale University Medical School in 1966. Upon completion of his training, he joined the Yale Medical School faculty in Medicine and Pharmacology. In 1968, he moved to Providence to join the faculty of the young Brown University Medical School to play his part in helping build it into excellence. Dr. McDonald was a skilled and compassionate physician, a spectacular

husband, a loving father, a loyal and generous friend, an encouraging teacher and colleague. He was grateful for each one of his achievements and, always, for the many people who helped him succeed.

If you would prefer to support a cause in his memory, please consider The Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence 02903, or, the Charles and Maureen McDonald Endowed Scholarship Fund, Howard University, P.O. Box 417853, Boston, MA 02241-7853. ❖



**MICHAEL ANTHONY PASSERO, MD**, 75, passed away peacefully at home in Pittsburgh, PA, on January 6, 2021 from complications of Parkinson's disease.



He spent most of his professional life in Providence, RI. His patients and their families fondly remember him as a knowledgeable, competent and compassionate pulmonary physician. He influenced generations of physicians teaching medical students, internal medicine residents and pulmonary fellows at the Roger Williams Medical Center and the Brown University Program in Medicine.

A passionate audiophile, he was a music major at Dartmouth College. He met his future wife, Mary Ann, at Dartmouth

Medical School and received his MD at the Harvard Medical School. He was an internal medicine resident and pulmonary fellow at Duke University Hospital before serving 2 years in the US Army Medical Corps at Ireland Army Hospital in Fort Knox, KY. Although he had many intellectual interests including history, science and music, he also liked working with his hands. He built a center speaker to complement his Klipschorns, so that he could blast everything from Bach's baroque cantatas to The Who's rock opera in his living room in Barrington, RI. He and his family cruised Narragansett Bay in the 22-foot power boat which he maintained himself. He also worked on his 1960 Mark II Jaguar when he had any time to spare from his 50- or 60-hour work week.

Above all he was a man who was interested in people. He took the time to listen to family, friends, colleagues, employees, patients and students. He remembered their names, their family members and their hobbies. If he was walking down a hallway in the hospital, buying groceries in the supermarket, or tinkering with his car, someone would always stop to talk to him. In addition to his loving wife of 51 years, he leaves his sons Michael and Christopher, daughters-in-law Parul Gujarathi and Vida Passero, granddaughters Evangelina and Cecilia, his brother Frank Passero and sister-in-law Rosara Passero and their children and grandchildren, his wife's brothers and their families as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Donations in his name may be made to the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be left at [www.mccabebrothers.com](http://www.mccabebrothers.com). ❖