

Obituaries



JOSEPH BLUMEN, MD, 88, of Newport, passed peacefully on July 25, 2021, at the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol. He was 88.

Joseph was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1933, to Dora and Elias Blumen. Along with older brothers Louis and David, the family moved to Newport soon afterwards. Dora and Elias owned and operated the Municipal Market, a small neighborhood grocery store at the corner of Bowery and Spring Streets. One of Joe's earliest memories was the way the store's plate glass window flexed and bowed during the Hurricane of 1938.

Dr. Blumen was a graduate of Rogers High School, Brown University, and Tufts University School of Medicine. In 1965, he enlisted as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and served as Chief of General Surgery at the 67th Evac Hospital, Qui Nhon, Vietnam, and later on the surgical staff at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

In 1967, Joseph returned to Newport to practice as a general surgeon and primary care physician and to raise a family with Dale, his beloved wife and partner of 58 years. As a physician, he cared for generations of Aquidneck Islanders, often making house calls. As part of his holistic approach to medicine, he believed laughter was essential for health and wellbeing.

Dr. Blumen was an active member of the community. He was a Master Mason and member of St. Paul's Lodge No. 14 for more than 50 years. Joseph was a long-serving member of the Planning Board for the City of Newport and a trustee of the Seamen's Church Institute. He also established the Dora and Elias Blumen Collection for the Study of Holocaust Literature at Salve Regina University.

Joseph considered his family to be the most important part of his life. He is survived by his wife Dale, his children Ethan (Tracy) of Sharon, Mass., Rebecca of Newport, RI, Jonathan (Lisa) of Rutland, Mass., and Joshua (Jill) of Sharon, Mass., and his grandchildren Eli, Mira, Alexander, Maxwell, Liliana, and Violet.

Donations in Joseph's memory may be made to "The Blumen Fund" to support the Collection for the Study of Holocaust Literature at Salve Regina University. www.salve.edu. ❖



STEPHEN PATRICK BURNS, MD, FACR, of East Greenwich, RI, passed away peacefully on August 11, 2021. He was the loving husband of Nancy Mailhot Burns for 56 years. He graduated from Boston College in 1962 and Tufts Medical School in 1966. Following a one-year internship at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, MA, he enlisted

in the US Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health Service, serving as a physician on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota. After 2 years of service, he entered the Radiology residency program at Boston University in 1969 and completed his training in Boston. In 1973, he



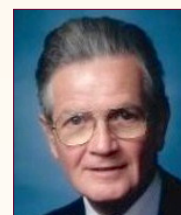
accepted a position in Radiology at Kent County Memorial Hospital in Warwick, RI, where he later served as Chief of Radiology and as a member of the Special Advisory Committee. He was a Past President of the Rhode Island chapter of the American College of Radiology.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Stephen P. Burns, III, MD and his wife Suzanne, Kathleen B. Takata and her husband Kenn, Patricia B. Harwood and her husband Steve, and David J. Burns; and 6 grandchildren.

Steve's favorite leisure activities were music and sports, especially choral music, golf, and skiing. He participated as a member of the Narragansett Bay Barbershop Chorus for 17 years and as a member of his church choirs at Our Lady of Mercy Church in East Greenwich and St. Elizabeth Seton in Naples, FL. He was a member of the Potowomut Golf Club in East Greenwich, RI and Bears Paw Country Club in Naples, FL. After retirement, he was a dedicated volunteer at Button Hole Golf Club in Providence, a non-profit which encourages people of all backgrounds and abilities to learn the game of golf. Donations in his memory can be made to Button Hole Golf Course (buttonhole.org) or the Parkinson's Association of Southwest Florida (parkinsonsassociationswfl.org). ❖



JOHN B. LAWLOR, MD, 95, died peacefully on August 15, 2021 at St. Elizabeth Home in East Greenwich, surrounded by his five children. He was the beloved husband of the late Virginia Hope (Daley) Lawlor, to whom he was married for 67 years before her death in 2018.



Jack graduated from LaSalle Academy and Brown University, where he was enrolled in the US Navy V-12 accelerated program as a pre-med student when doctors were needed for the World War II effort. By his graduation in 1946, the war had ended. He went on to attend medical school in Brooklyn, NY, at the Long Island College of Medicine (now SUNY Downstate College of Medicine) and interned at University Hospital of Brooklyn.

He and Hope married in 1951. As newlyweds, they lived in Charleston, SC, where Jack was a Lieutenant in the US Navy. When his active duty was complete, Hope and Jack moved to Providence, where he began his medical residency in urology at Rhode Island Hospital. They spent a year with their young family in New York City while he completed his surgical residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, and returned to Rhode Island, where he joined the staff of Rhode Island Hospital. Jack spent his career there and in 1976 was named Chair of the Department of Urology, a role that included overseeing the urological training of medical students at Brown University and the hospital's medical residents. He established Urological Associates (now Brown Urology), a private partnership which grew into a group practice. He took pride in teaching the next generation of physicians, many of whom still practice in RI. Recent years included many visits to Rhode Island Hospital as a patient, and Jack was always glad to reminisce about the old days with staff he knew.

He was a man of faith who gave of his time as a Eucharistic Minister for his parish and on a medical mission to Romania

with Hope, who was a registered nurse, and a group of local surgeons. He taught English to those new to the United States. He was a lifelong learner, taking computer classes in his 80s so he could email his grandkids, forming new friendships in his 90s, and learning to play darts at his assisted living home after Hope passed away. He figured out how to Zoom with his family and watch movies on Netflix while isolated during the pandemic. He never stopped reading.

He leaves a son, John Lawlor, Jr., of East Providence, and four daughters: Peggy Lamb and her husband Tom of East Greenwich, Joanne Boehme (late husband Fred) of Juneau, AK; Betsy Lawlor of Diamond Bar, CA and Jean Lawlor of Fairhaven, MA. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

Donations in his memory may be made to Our Lady of Mercy Church, 65 Third Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818. ❖



FRED T. "TED" PERRY, MD, 81, of Coventry, passed away peacefully on August 11, 2021 at Miriam Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Carol L. (Anderson) Perry for 59 years.

He graduated from Providence College in 1961 with Magna Cum Laude honors. He went on to attend the University of Vermont, earning his MD degree in 1966. During the Vietnam War, Ted served his country as an anesthesiologist at field hospitals in CuChi and AnKhe, achieving the rank of Captain in the United States Air Force.

Following an Anesthesia residency, he returned to Rhode Island and joined the Anesthesia Associates at Kent County Memorial Hospital. He served his patients, friends and family there for more than 20 years. As time went on, he became Chief of Anesthesia and served a term as President of the medical staff.

In 1995, he moved on to Pawtucket Memorial Hospital where he formed Anesthesia Care, Inc., serving as Chief of Anesthesia there for several years. During this time, he traveled to Honduras with Catholic Medical Missions to help provide anesthesia services to people in need. He loved his work, his patients, and teaching student nurse anesthetists.

For years, he served on the Coventry Democratic Committee and for several terms on the Coventry Zoning Board. He developed an interest in flying and became a private pilot.

He was the father of Fred Joseph "Joe" Perry (Jeff Janelle), Pamela "Pam" Anne Jackson, Patricia Lee Perry (Fred Bibeau), and James Michael "Jim" Perry (Sukanya), all of Coventry and grandfather of Ben, Teddy, Ryan, Chris, Frankie, Joshua, and Jonathan. He was the brother of William F. Perry (Charlene), of Barefoot Bay, FL, and the late Francis "Frank" J. Perry, Jr. (Elizabeth).

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Orchard Lake Seminary (sscms.edu) or Lifespan Cancer Institute at RI Hospital, 593 Eddy St., APC, Providence, RI 02903. ❖



CHARLES "CHUCK" STAUNTON, MD, 78, of Williston, Vermont, devoted husband to Jean, and dad to Norman and Michael, died peacefully on July 26, 2021, at home, surrounded by his family.

He was the definition of a self-made man, putting himself through Blackburn College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Albany

Medical College where he received his MD. He completed a Residency in Adult Psychiatry and a Fellowship in Child and Adolescent and Psychiatry at the Menninger Foundation in Kansas. His work in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry included tenures at Bradley and Butler Hospitals in Rhode Island, teaching at Brown Medical School, and private practice and consulting in Rhode Island and Vermont.

Dr. Chuck, as he was known to so many patients, friends, kids, athletes, and colleagues, died as a result of complications from Parkinson's Disease, which he lived with and fought for the last 12 years of his life. He never once complained.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, no service is planned at this time. Chuck's family would be honored if those who knew him would share remembrances or stories of Chuck here or by emailing them to charlesstaunton@comcast.net.

For those who wish to, Chuck's family asks that donations in his memory be made to the Michael J Fox Foundation or UVM Home Health and Hospice to support Parkinson's research, treatment, and care. ❖



WILLIAM F. VARR, JR., MD, 91, passed away on Aug. 5, 2021, in the peace of his home with family by his side. He was the husband of J. Lucille (St. Pierre) Varr.

Dr. Varr was a native of West Warwick and graduated from New York Medical College in 1954. He interned at St. Joseph's Hospital and completed his anesthesiology residency at Henry Ford Medical Center in Detroit. After residency he served in the US Navy as Chief of Anesthesiology at Newport Naval Hospital. After his military service he founded the anesthesiology department at Kent County Memorial Hospital where he served as Chief of Anesthesiology until his retirement.

He served as Vice President of the Rhode Island Medical Society and President of the RI Society of Anesthesiology. He was also a member of the Executive board of BCBS of RI. Civically he was president of the Sierra Club and was a member of the board of trustees at RI College.

He is survived by his three children, Dr. William F. Varr, III and his wife Victoria Morro of Somerset, MA and Newport, RI; Bradford Varr of Woonsocket and Delyse Shakespeare and her husband William of Johnston, RI. He is also survived by several grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be made to The Providence College Fund online at <https://giving.providence.edu>. Remembrances may be shared at carpenterjenks.com. ❖

