

Obituaries



JOSEPH DEMARTINO, MD, passed away on January 26, 2024, at home surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Teaneck, New Jersey, he and his family moved back to Italy where he grew up. He encountered many challenges but found a way to attend the University of Naples where he received his medical degree. This dedication to medicine would

last him the rest of his life as his greatest passion was medicine. In his nearly 40 years of practice, he delivered thousands of babies and helped countless people.

He served as an Adjunct Professor at Brown University and each year the OB/GYN residents would honor him with an outstanding teaching award. He had an extraordinary mind and was a gifted surgeon. He was a board-certified fellow with the American College of Gynecology, and he was recognized as one of the Top Docs in Rhode Island Monthly. He was always seeking more knowledge and skills to help his patients.

He and his wife managed a thriving private practice in Providence in which every patient was treated like family. Even outside of his practice, people knew they could count on him, and he helped friends and family here and in Italy to get the best medical care possible when they needed it. All in all, he was truly one of the last of the old-fashioned doctors who prioritized his patients, getting to know them and even making house calls.

Outside of medicine, he had a variety of interests. He was an avid gardener with a green thumb that, like his surgical skills, he was always honing. He was always proud of his tomatoes and would try to share them with everyone he encountered. He loved visiting museums of all kinds and was obsessive about learning as much as he could. He dove into history, linguistics, geography, sociology, anthropology, politics, and so many other subjects and managed to memorize an incredible amount of information that he was always happy to share, whether you wanted to hear it or not. His quest for knowledge was something he sought to pass on to his children by traveling extensively with them from a very early age and expanding their horizons.

His family will always be inspired by his dogged persistence through years of illness and the unwavering strength and determination he showed until the very end. The family would like to thank Dr. Vito Ferri and Dr. Joseph Mazza for their exceptional care throughout the years. The family would also like to extend a special thanks to Stacey, RN of Hope Health for her kindness, guidance, and dedication through this difficult time.

He will be deeply missed by his wife of 35 years, Anne-Marie (née Finelli) DeMartino, his son Joseph Vincent DeMartino, his daughter Angelica Marie DeMartino, and his dog Sofia whom he always referred to as "the best dog in the world".

He also leaves his dedicated best friend, chosen brother, and surgical partner of over 50 years, Dr. Frank Pensa.

Donations in his honor, can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the American Heart Association. www.OneillFuneralHomes.com ❖



EUGENE B. MCKEE, MD, 90,

of Narragansett, passed away on February 14th, 2024.



Dr. McKee graduated from The College of the Holy Cross in 1955, where he was a member of the ROTC. He received his medical degree from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland in 1961, the first graduate from the United States. He completed his medical internship and residency at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital.

Dr. McKee was a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force, and served as the Chief of Aerospace Medicine at Otis Air Force Base. After leaving active duty, his transition to civilian life included a role as medical director for United Airlines. He continued to serve in the Air National Guard, and retired after 29 years of service with the rank of colonel.

Dr. McKee started his family practice in Wakefield, touching many lives in the South County community in over 40 years of practice. He was also the medical director at the Electric Boat facility in North Kingstown, and quality assurance director at South County Hospital. He finished his career as the medical director at the Treatment Center in North Kingstown, retiring at age 80.

After retiring from medical practice, Dr. McKee embarked on a life-long passion to write, publishing four books. He was a member of the Mensa Society, a docent at the John Brown House in Providence and a member of the South County Writers Group.

He was also an avid runner and a long-time participant in the annual Blessing of the Fleet race in Narragansett. He completed a total of three marathons, in Dublin, Berlin and Boston, at the age of 70. He was a longtime member of the Dunes Club and a former member of the Point Judith Country Club.

He is survived by his wife Patricia (Dalton), children Matthew, his wife Melissa (Danchik), their daughters Emily and Adeline; Mary Ellen and her husband Michael Staebler, MD, their four children, Jack, Julia, Kathryn, Aidan; Kathleen Ann, Sean and his wife Stacey (Pevzner). He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Clare Margaret.

Donations in his memory may be made to Christ the King Food Pantry, 180 Old North Road, Kingston RI 02881; RI Food Bank, 104 Hay Street, West Warwick, RI 02893; or Special Olympics Rhode Island, 170 George Washington Highway, Smithfield, RI 02917.



JOSEPH R. PELTIER, MD, 95, passed away on February 17th, 2024 in Wellington, Florida, leaving behind a legacy of love and service.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and returned home to attend Providence College before earning his medical degree from Georgetown University in 1956. He met his wife, Joan, during residency while she was working as a nurse. They were soon married and moved to Warwick where he established a vibrant pediatric practice. His dedication to exceptional care



spanned over four decades reflecting his unwavering commitment to caring for children.

Beyond his medical achievements, he embraced a vibrant social life whether on the Solitude II or on the tennis courts at Warwick Heights. He also enjoyed playing the violin as part of the Warwick Symphony Orchestra. He was a P.C. Friars basketball fan, loved skiing in his younger years and golf in his later years.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Joan; daughter, Tricia; brother, Roger; triplet grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and countless patients whose lives he touched.

A celebration of life will be held in Rhode Island this summer. ❖