



D. Mark Potter, MD

March 12, 1947 - April 12, 2016

D. Mark Potter, MD, born in Wichita KS on March 12, 1947, son of the late Donald C. and Mary Jo Potter, expired at home after a short illness on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

As a boy he moved about the country, following his father's profession as a public librarian, with his brothers and sisters Thomas Thane (Anna) of Elverson, PA; his late brother David; sisters Laurel Moriarty and Carolee (Peter), Kuchirka both of Jackson, MS. The moves always involved a houseful of books, music, the Steinway grand piano he never learned to play, and laughter. These moves took him to Ann Arbor, MI; Lawrence, KS; and Duluth, MN. At Duluth he was a crossing guard at Endion Elementary School, was a member of the Duluth Junior Symphony Orchestra on the violin, threw newspaper for the Herald and News Tribune, and attended one year of high school at Duluth East. The family then moved to Knoxville, TN, where in 1967 he graduated from the University of Tennessee, in spite of being a desultory student, with a degree in English literature. He was then selected as a member of the "Pioneer Class" of medical students at the fledgling Penn State University College of Medicine, graduating in 1971. He completed his postgraduate training at Penn State and at the University of Oregon College of Medicine, Portland, obtaining board certification in the subspecialty of Nephrology as well as in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Thereafter he was a member of the faculties of the University of Oregon and the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, returning to Penn State in 1983. He

burned himself out in private practice in Lebanon, PA, from 1992-2006, where he was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award by the residents of the Penn State Family Practice Program. Mark was the privileged to join the Endocrinology staff at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, in 2006, finally retiring December, 2015, anticipating years of fly fishing and the study of English literature and poetry. It was not to be.

He had been married to Patricia Bush of Hershey, and they had three sons, Benjamin, Cleona; Christopher, Hershey; and Gabriel, of Hummelstown, as well as Tammy Bush.

July 19, 2012, he and the patient, vivacious, enduring and indomitable Susan Baney were married. They have been laughing ever since, especially when in the company of his best friend of 47 years and classmate in the "Pioneer Class", Henry, Travers, and his wife Sally, of Sioux Falls, SD.

He has stepchildren, Stephanie Hamersky of Lebanon and Brad Foltz (Mary Miller of Northfield NJ, Ryan and Sarah Foltz, and Jon and Caroline Hamersky, step-grandchildren. His son Christopher has blessed the family with two beautiful granddaughters, Jaclyn and Joanna, Lykens. Mark and Sue's father John Baney have enjoyed a special relationship, with enough stories of Lebanon County to fill the Historical Society Library.

Mark's passion was fly fishing, and he was becoming pretty decent an angler as time passed and then grew short. He was a protean reader, devouring fiction, nonfiction and poetry. His enthusiastic attempts at gardening were, he believed, the object of derision among his Amish neighbors in South Lebanon Township.

Mark attended St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Lebanon, where he was frequently lector, and was a proud member of the Susquehannock Fly Fishers, Inc., enjoying many hours on the Quittapahilla and Tulpehochen Creeks with his old friend, Dick Henry, as well as many new friends in the club.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mark's memory may be made to St Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Salvation Army would be greatly appreciated.

A memorial service celebrating Mark's life will be held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 11:00 AM from Porterfield-Scheid Funeral Directors & Cremation Services, Ltd., 890 Isabel Dr., Lebanon, PA (next to Quentin Circle) with Rev. Robert Hoffman officiating. Family and friends will be received Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10:00 AM to time of service at the funeral home. He has requested his ashes to be placed in the Duluth Ship Canal, Duluth, MN.

Tribute Wall



“ *D. Mark Potter, MD*

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *D. Mark Potter, MD*

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *D. Mark Potter, MD*

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *As a family doctor I consulted Mark often and I always hoped that I'd run into him when doing my rounds at Good Samaritan - not to hear his opinion and treatment plan but because I knew that he'd have a good story and that I would be laughing out loud. I only smile now when thinking about him and his kind and very caring manner with his and my patients and with physician colleagues. Our residents loved working with him and he loved teaching them clinical pearls. I left Lebanon in 2004 when I saw him last. My wife Mary knew him as well and we always enjoyed his wisdom and his wit. We continue to think about him often.*

Ed Paul - Phoenix, AZ - Coworker - January 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Potts was one of my best friend while at Hershey.He changed my son's first diaper and cried when Chris was killed climbing ice in Colorado!My only regret is that we never fished together these past years and I envy his friendship with Pete Travers! He will be missed and I give my condolences to his family. I wish that he could be at our next class reunion! God bless him!b

Dr. William F. Pruchnic - Johnstown, PA - Classmate - September 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ A loss indeed. I met Dr. Potter back in the late 80's while he was at HMC. I was with the Lions Club and came to Dr. Potter with an off beat fundraiser. A Strudel Relay race. And for 5 years we held the race and I worked with Dr. Potter. Good memories. I do not remember which son it was but he referred to me as Dr. Hassler. Always brought a smile.I am sorry I did not know about his background. But God has a new fisherman in heaven. God Bless and be with the family and friends.

Dennis Hassler - Friend - April 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ I am very sorry for your loss.

Alice Gibble - Lebanon, PA - Acquaintance - April 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ My dr. at the VA for eight years prior to his retirement. We always spent 10 minutes on medicine, then 10 minutes swapping jokes. I am truly sorry that he didn't get more retirement time. He deserved it.

preston Darkes - lebanon, PA - Friend - April 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dr. Potter, you will be missed. You were a great doctor and I actually looked forward to my visits with you at LIMA. You not only took great care of me but made me feel like a person and not just a patient. You did a wonderful job of taking over from Dr. Grosky and that will always be appreciated. The VA was lucky to have gotten you , and I'm sure you gave awesome care of those vets who looked to you for help in managing their diabetes. Thank you for everything you did for those of us with what you once admitted was a disease you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy.

Deborah Sipe - Palmyra, PA - April 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ It was an honor to work with you and have you care for my father...you were one of the smartest men that anyone will ever know. You will be missed...

Alicia Wike - Lebanon, PA - Friend - April 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ While I was a member of the medical staff at GSH (200-2008), I had the pleasure of getting to work with and know Mark Potter! It seems odd, but just last week I was talking about how much I loved his sense of humor! A current co-worker and I were discussing documentations and the memory of Dr. Potter's very colorful, truthful, professional, yet entertaining consult and progress notes were in the forefront of my mind! I learned many things from talking with him, not just about medicine, but about life! I will not be able to make the service, but wanted very much to share this fond memory with his family!

Amy McCorkel - Stillwater, PA - Coworker - April 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr Potter at the VA for several years and I was very sad to read of his death. He was a wonderful man and a terrific Doctor; I always enjoyed talking to him despite our very busy schedules. He helped many people and will be deeply missed. Judy Carhart MD8

Judy Carhart MD - Camp Hill, PA - Coworker - April 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ I'll never forget all the laughter you brought to the hospital, nor the time you walked down the hall with my young boys' first fishing rods that you picked out since I didn't know where to start, and finally, all the great care you gave to all people of Lebanon County. Thank you and I'm glad to have known you!

Nikki Twaryonas - Lebanon, PA - April 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM