



Dr. Lynn A. Bowers

February 18, 1960 - February 18, 2010

Son...brother...husband...doctor...father...friend...patient. Dr. Lynn A. Bowers will forever be these things for all of us. After passing away from cancer on Thursday, February 18, 2010, we reflect on all the ways he came into our lives and forever left his mark. No matter how you knew him—Dr. B., Skinny, Mr. B, Daddy, Doc, Lynn Allen, Ed, Bro, QBall, Lynnage, Uncle M or Dad—he had a way of connecting with you that was somehow unforgettable and uniquely sincere. He had this ability to draw people in and make them believe, laugh, cry, or make a change...and he did it all with an amazing sense of humor and passion to live.

Dr. Bowers was unselfishly dedicated to his family, to his pediatric practice, to St. Anne Catholic Church, and to his community of New Castle, Indiana. Through that dedication he was able to better many lives around him and did so by involving himself in just about anything for which he felt strongly. His journey began 64 years ago when he was born to Lucile and Vernon Bowers. He graduated from New Castle Chrysler High School, from Ball State University, and from Indiana University School of Medicine. He served his medical internship and residency at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis then headed off to Texas to serve as a Major in the U.S. Army in the department of Pediatrics at Darnall Army Hospital, where he also served as Chief of Pediatrics. He came back to launch successfully New Castle Pediatrics as the only pediatric practice in Henry County. Over the years he served as an officer in the Henry County Health Department, the Director of Henry County March of Dimes, a Pediatric Consultant for the New Castle State Developmental Center, the Co-Director of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home, a member and President of the New Castle School Board, Chairman of the Board for Suburban Health Organization, and President/ CEO of Suburban Physician Organization in Indianapolis.

In addition to his leadership roles, he also dedicated himself to programs and organizations in which he felt he could make a difference...serving and supporting his community were very important to him. He served as County Medical Officer on the Henry County Board of Health, was a board member of the Henry County Memorial Hospital Foundation, served as a past President of the Henry County Memorial Hospital medical staff, established a neo-natal critical care unit at HCMH, was a past President of the Henry

County Medical Society, was a member and lay leader at St. Anne Catholic Church, and established teaching/training opportunities at New Castle Pediatrics with several professional schools including his alma mater IU School of Medicine and School of Nursing. He also served as a consultant for the New Castle State Developmental Center, the Henry County MCH/WIC programs, Henry County Head-Start, the Bennett House Children's Shelter, the Henrico and Agape Day Care, the Knightstown Soldier's and Sailor's Home, and the Children's Health Care Services and SSI. He also served as a committee member of the Henry County Division of Family and Children. He was very proud of his establishment of his pediatric practice as a Rural Health Clinic because he believed that no child in need of care should ever go without service because of a lack of resources. For many of his contributions and for his commitment to others, he was recently awarded one of Indiana's highest honors known as the Sagamore of the Wabash award; and for his contribution in the field of Preventive Medicine and Public Health by improving access to immunization services to underinsured Hoosier children, he received Indiana's Premier Health Award known as the Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award. What's funny about all of the things we read here, he never once sought recognition for all the service and hard work he so easily and effortlessly offered. Aside from his personal and professional accomplishments, Dr. Bowers had many loves in his life. He was an avid runner, having run five marathons, the last one at age 50 in Chicago. He had a green thumb and spent the growing seasons nurturing his "little darlins" in his garden. He spent many winters making road trips and lasting memories on his way to Colorado and Utah for ski trips with the "Bros", his family, and any other family member who thought they could keep up. You could often find him listening to music, reading a good non-fiction book he had discovered while listening to NPR, or delving into the great articles in the Wall Street Journal about which he so often talked. His fascination with photography produced many great shots of friends and family and fed his desire to catch memory-making in the moment. And if you were lucky to visit when he was playing his piano, it was always a treat.

One of the greatest things about "Dad" was that anyone who has ever spent time with him has a "story" about him. There are stories about Kick the Can, board games, Westwood, road trips, barn parties, Texas, holidays, high school buddies, Bridge and Euchre, Thunder Foot, Italy, Winnie the Pooh stories, skiing...and many, many more. He really didn't have one "story of a life" as the song goes. His life was made up of all kinds of stories that came together and created this amazing person we call friend. And everyone who knew Lynn A. Bowers needed him to be exactly who he was. And he always delivered.

Dr. Bowers is survived by his devoted wife Cassandra Bowers and his three children, Vanessa Ellefsen (Tom) from Indianapolis, Bret Bowers (Gia) from Texas, and Jacquelynn Frauman (Justin) from Texas. He is also survived by five brothers and a sister, Stuart Bowers (Joan) from Texas, Michael Bowers (Barbara) from Virginia, Tom Bowers (Sheila)

from Florida, Douglas Bowers (Laurie) from North Carolina, Timothy Bowers (Julie) from Indiana, and Marybeth Harris (Larry) from Colorado. Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Caitlynn Marie, Sabrina Carroll, Evan Joseph, Ryann Lynn, Jackson Cain, Ellie Rose, and Deacon Wesley...and many nieces and nephews who practically considered "Uncle M" to be a second father. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Lucile Bowers, and by a brother, David Bowers.

Visitation will be held in New Castle, Indiana, at Sproles Family Funeral Home on Monday, February 22, 2010 from 2-8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Anne Catholic Church in New Castle, Indiana on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. with Father Joe Rautenberg officiating. Burial will follow in St. Anne Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Henry County Hospital Foundation for the Dr. Lynn Bowers Scholarship Fund, to Henry County Pregnancy Care Center, to CRADLES, and to St. Anne's Rebuild My Church Fund.

You may send a personal condolence to the family at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

Tribute Wall

JN

“ we miss you Dr. B...

Jennie from NCP - February 17, 2011 at 09:49 AM

DP

“ I'm sorry to hear about your loss. I only had the pleasure of meeting Lynn a few times but it was obvious that his stories were full of family, fun and laughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family through this difficult time.
Love,
Damon

Damon Peters - March 02, 2010 at 12:12 PM

GE

“ I love this man. He was there for all 3 of my kids day or night. he is and was a great man. I feel so sad for the family. I know if I was worry or upset about my kids he would do all he can to help them and me to feel ok. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP IN MY AND MY KIDS LIVE! YOU WELL BE MISS SO MUCH.

gail elder - February 28, 2010 at 01:59 PM

WJ

“ I never knew Lynn, but I have heard a lot about him, and everything I heard corroborates the fact that New Castle has suffered a great loss with his passing. God Bless.

Walter Jennings - February 27, 2010 at 12:13 PM

LD

“ I can't help feeling that Isabella and I were so unfortunate to have only known Lynn for a few short years and even then, because we live in Italy, only able to see him, spend time with him when he returned to visit this country that gave him so much pleasure. So many others were gifted well beyond ours by having known Lynn for so much longer, shared so much with him, so much of all that Lynn had to give and gave without hesitation and always with love. Lynn, we can only, will always, be ever grateful for having been allowed to shared such a small but meaningful portion of your gifted life. Thank you Lynn. To Cassie and the family, know that you have our most sincerest condolences. Luigi and Isabella Dusi. Italy

Luigi and Isabella Dusi - February 24, 2010 at 10:04 AM

JS

“ To everyone in your family our deepest condolences. Lynn was such a person to admire. Cherish all the wonderful family memories you have.

Judy Sorrell - February 23, 2010 at 07:46 PM

CS

“ Vanessa - Your dad was a great man. He touched everyone he came in contact with. He was wonderful with my girls at NC Ped's. May your memories of your father take you throughout life with a smile...always and forever.

Cindy Eckrote Shafer - February 23, 2010 at 07:44 PM

WC

“ I became acquainted with Dr. Bowers while working as director of MCH/WIC (Maternal Child Health and Women, Infants, and Children). He was kind and supportive of our programs and desired to help low income children wherever and whenever he could. He will be missed.

Wanda Chamberlin - February 23, 2010 at 05:02 PM

TH

“ Jackie - we were so sorry to hear about the death of your Dad. We know how special he was to you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Love you
The Hughes

Theresa Hughes - February 23, 2010 at 04:05 PM

CV

“ To the Bowers family: The memories that you shared today at the service were so wonderful. To know how much he loved you all and how much you all loved him, was, well words cannot express the feeling that everyone had during that service. . We all laughed, cried and shook our heads as you were telling your stories about Lynn. You have such great memories that you will cherish forever. You had a very very amazing husband, father, brother, grandpa, uncle. May you always smile when you remember or tell a story about Dr. Lynn Bowers.

Cathy and Kerry Vonderheide - February 23, 2010 at 03:03 PM

SB

“ My sympathies to Dr. Bowers family, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Bowers over the years, he was an amazing man and certainly one of a kind, he will be truly missed.

Susan Bozzo - February 23, 2010 at 08:22 AM

DC

“ I remember Lynn as Doc. He always presented a certain class and dignity that was uniquely his own. I regret never having the chance to work with Dr. Bowers. He would have been a great teacher and insight to pediatric medicine. All members of St. Anne's parish are blessed to have a new guardian angel watching over them.

David and Jeannette Carlson - February 22, 2010 at 09:44 AM

SC

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Bowers. I was a patient of Dr. Bowers during my child and adolescent years. When I was thirteen I was found to have high blood pressure during a routine physical. Dr. Bowers took excellent care of me, seeing me daily for a period of time. He ordered test after test. During one of these routine tests, I was found to have a hole in my heart, not the reason for the high blood pressure, but another concern all in itself. Many tests were ran to find the cause of the high blood pressure. The last test ordered was the cause - a shruken artery to my kidney. Surgery followed on that issue and later open heart surgery to fix the hole in my heart. Today I am a happy 30 year old woman with two beautiful children and a wonderful life. I don't think of it frequently anymore, but with the passing of Dr. Bowers, I have taken time to remember what he meant to my life. I owe him a great deal for the life I lead today. I will always remember how comfortable he made me feel, how he always called me "pickle" when I came to see him and his funny ties. I hope his family takes great comfort in stories such as mine. He was a man that made a difference in this world. He definitely made a difference in mine.

Sommer Scales Cannon - February 21, 2010 at 11:13 PM

CD

“ I was born a 32 week preemie with a severe lung birth defect. Through God's grace Dr. Bowers was on call. He kept me alive until the ambulance from Riley Children's Hospital could come and pick me up. I was his patient my entire life until I left New Castle. I saw Dr. Bowers a couple of years ago. He immediately knew who I was. He was able to quote my medical history. I now work at a Children's hospital and he hugged me when he heard that. He said that it had all came "full circle" He was an amazing man. I was honored to have known him. Your family is in my prayers.

Cindy Reece Duncan - February 21, 2010 at 08:20 PM

BW

“ Hello,
On behalf of myself and my mother, Dorothy Word, we wish to express our heartfelt sympathy on the loss of Dr. Bowers. He was my doctor when I was growing up in New Castle and kept me healthy and well. I am grateful for him being the person that he was. My mother and I would talk about him after our departure from New Castle and appreciated him for what he had done. He was amongst the greats.

Bryce D. Word - February 21, 2010 at 07:57 PM

JL

“ I am the Account Executive who represents MDwise Hoosier Alliance and the Hoosier Healthwise program in Henry Co. I've know Dr. Bowers since 1999 and I will miss talking with him and seeing him when I visit New Castle Pediatrics. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and the staff. He was a wonderful man who lived his life to the fullest. God bless.

Jill Long - February 21, 2010 at 05:09 PM

KE

“ I don't personally know Lynn, but my children go to N.C Peds. After reading his obituary I can tell that this was a wonderful person. Involved in many causes and responsible for the wonderful doctor's office. I am sorry for your loss. It will be a big one. He made the community a better place to be.

Kendra - February 21, 2010 at 03:20 PM

VS

“ I met this special Dr. while working at the hopsital a few years ago, I was scared to death to speak to alot of the drs. and he never missed a chance to stop and ask everyone who their day was going. To me he made the hospital what it was. He also treated my children when they were little.

Valerie Shaneyfelt - February 20, 2010 at 06:01 PM

JC

“ I was the Head Nurse On Pediatrics when Lynn came to town. He encouraged and supported me to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and work in his office. I worked there for 3 years and he helped to mold my life. I moved to Orlando in 1981 and have worked at a teaching hospital since then. I have seen 100's of Pediatrician's, NONE have ever compared to his knowledge, compassion and sense of humor. He set the bar for me to be the best I could be and I am forever grateful to have known him. My heartfelt condolences go to his family, but as I know his impact on me made me greater, I know it has made you greater too. Thank God for sharing this great man, we were all lucky to know him and his legacy will live on forever through his family, patients, co-workers and good deeds he has done.

Jeane Cole - February 20, 2010 at 02:21 PM

JD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort. Love you all, The Dunham Family

Josh and Jennie Dunham - February 20, 2010 at 09:49 AM

EP

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire Bowers family. We had the privilege of meeting Dr. Bowers several times when he came to visit his grandchildren for their various celebrations...birthdays, baptisms, First Communion...You can tell by bein around his family that he was a great man and was held in high regard. He is leaving a wonderful legacy behind with his wife, children and grandchildren. Our prayers are with you all during this difficult time.
The Pfaff Family

Emily & Brent Pfaff - February 20, 2010 at 12:03 AM

UW

“ Jackie and Justin, My prayers are with you continually and I love ya'll so much. Jackie, thank you for the insights into your Fathers's life and the celebration of his life. His greatest love for you and your family is expressed in the devoted life he exhibited and the example he set. God Bless and comfort you and your family. We love you.
Uncle Wayne

Uncle Wayne - February 19, 2010 at 08:57 PM

TF

“ I send my deepest sympathies and condolences to all the family. We have all lost a piece of our hearts, and a real treasure. Anyone who knew Lynn recognized he was someone special. From H.S. friendship to my young daughter's Dr. while we were in New Castle, I will always remember his smile and genuine concern and acceptance of we "mere mortals".

Sadly, Patricia A. Sears

The Sears Family - February 19, 2010 at 07:59 PM

JR

“ Cassie, et al: "Death ends a life but it does not end a relationship", as I so well know. A life well lived and enjoyed and inspiring for others.

Jim Robbins - February 19, 2010 at 07:46 PM

GF

“ I am Very sorry to hear that Lynn the father in law of my nephew Justin And Jackie's father has passed on. I met him only a few times but he was always had a great sense of humor and a generous spirit. I know he will be overwhelmingly missed, but I feel his contribution was great and will last in the lives of his community and family.

Gary Frauman - February 19, 2010 at 06:21 PM

KS

“ As my children called him "Bowers" made parenthood easier. He always had a kind word or a note of encouragement, and always w/ humor. He always had the time for you and never in a hurry. My boys are all but grown now, but they have fond memories of him. He allowed us to be a part of his life by sharing. He told of about his "prison for his vegetables" as well as his latest new grandchild. He will forever be a fond memory in our hearts. Gregg, Kim, Mitch and Zach Shepherd

kim shepherd - February 19, 2010 at 04:33 PM

BM

“ i just wanted to say that i am very sorry for your loss. dr. bowers was my doctor until i was 18. i was born 2 months premature. he never gave up on me. my mom has told me many funny stories about dr. bowers from when i was born until she was able to take me home. even later on, he was very caring. he will be deeply missed. may God be with the family in their time of need. my thoughts and prayers will be with them.

bridgette martin - February 19, 2010 at 03:29 PM

AB

“ Dr. Bowers took wonderful care of me and my siblings during our childhood, and I have nothing but fond memories of him. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. The community has truly lost a great man.

Angela Webster Beyerle - February 19, 2010 at 03:22 PM

LM

“ From the Quickdraw/ RDL Family our condolences go to the Bower's Family. We a sorry for your loss.

Luis Maldonado - February 19, 2010 at 03:09 PM

KV

“ Vanessa, Sabrina and Family,
Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time. May you feel God's presence now and always.
Kevin Vance

Kevin Vance - February 19, 2010 at 11:42 AM

DF

“ It was a joy to read about your remarkable father in his obituary. I hope the many happy memories you hold about him will sustain you through your grief. My sympathy goes out to Vanessa and all the rest of the family. Deb Farmer

Deb Farmer - February 19, 2010 at 09:21 AM

MR

“ May God bless a WONDERFUL man who cared for many people.

Mike and Sandy Rutherford - February 19, 2010 at 08:57 AM

BS

“ Vanessa and family, What a lovely legacy for your father to leave to his family, friends, and community. I know you will miss him greatly. May the love of friends give you comfort, may the love of God give you peace. Holding all of you close in thoughts and prayers. Love and prayers, Bev

Bev Stewart - February 19, 2010 at 08:54 AM

TM

“ New Castle has just suffered a great loss. Dr. Bowers was my son's doctor for 15 years, my son always called him Dr. Doolittle. When I told my son about his passing you could just see the heartbeat in his eyes. He will be missed greatly.

Tina Melton - February 19, 2010 at 08:00 AM

DG

“ We will truly miss Lynn. He was the perfect father-in-law for our son, Justin. We are so fortunate to have Jackie as our daughter-in-law and the opportunity to know the Bowers family. We know Lynn is now in Heaven with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the warmth of tender memories and the love of those around you bring you comfort and peace.
Love, Donna and Ed Goodman

Donna & Ed Goodman - February 19, 2010 at 12:15 AM