



Dr. Mark W. Roark

March 17, 1959 - June 25, 2024

Dr. Mark W. Roark, 65, of Indianapolis, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Clearvista Lake Health Campus following a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on March 17, 1959 in Owosso, Michigan, the son of Charles R. and Inge (Mittmann) Roark.

At the early age of eight, Mark announced to his family that he wanted to be an “Eye Doctor” and considered it his lifelong calling.

Mark graduated from Miami Trace High School in Washington Court House, Ohio, in 1977. He attended God’s Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Union Bible College in Westfield, Indiana. Mark studied Pre-Optometry at Butler University and earned a doctorate degree in 1984 at Indiana University School of Optometry in Bloomington, where he graduated as Valedictorian.

He met the love of his life, Anne Gebby, at church and they married on July 12, 1980.

Dr. Roark began his career in Berne, Indiana before moving to Indianapolis. He saw patients at MetroHealth for 12 years before moving into private practice, where he worked alongside Dr. Muskat and Dr. Funk for the next five

years. In 2003, Dr. Roark opened his own practice, Allisonville Eye Care Center, where he provided excellent patient care until his health declined at the end of 2022.

Dr. Roark was passionate about all aspects of eye care, especially how nutrition relates to eye health. He wrote 19 professional publications and lectured often, including twice at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

He was a member of the American Optometric Association and the Indiana Optometric Association for 29 years and was proud to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry since 2012. The Indiana Optometric Association just last month presented Mark with a Meritorious Service Award for his service to the community and profession.

Mark had a heart for people and was selfless, often seeing patients who showed up after hours in need and was generous in his time with his patients. He had a servant's heart and enjoyed providing eye care to those in need in Bolivia, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, and Dominica.

Mark greatly loved music and grew up singing with his sisters. He played bass guitar and sang with various groups including the Celebration Quartet and Disciples of Praise. For many years, he enjoyed singing and playing bass at the New Earth Fest in Atlanta, Indiana. Mark also played the bass every Sunday at church. He and his family attended Southeastern Holiness Church, Noblesville Pilgrim Holiness Church, Park Place Free Methodist in New Castle, and in recent years, Indianapolis First Church of the Nazarene.

Mark's greatest love was his family. He enjoyed family vacations, traveling, being outdoors, hiking and riding bikes, playing sports, and working out with his son, David.

Those left to cherish Mark's memory include his wife of almost 44 years, Anne Roark; three children, Anita C. Roark, David Roark, and Darla Roark, all of Indianapolis; his father, Charles R. Roark of Loveland, OH; three sisters, Nancy Holton of Goshen, OH, Cinda Steen of San Diego, CA, and Charlene (Glenn) Quintana of Duanesburg, NY; several cousins, nieces, and nephews; and several family members in Germany.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Inge Roark.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, June 29, 2024 at First Church of the Nazarene, 9401 E. 25th St. Indianapolis, Indiana, 46229 with Rev. Mark Bales officiating.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 am until the time of service Saturday at the church.

Burial will be held privately at a later date at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the Glioblastoma Resource Organization by Clicking Here (<https://www.gbmresearch.org/donate>). You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

9700 Allisonville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Church of the Nazarene
9401 E 25th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Funeral

JUN **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Church of the Nazarene
9401 E 25th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Tribute Wall

LF

“ Our family has just been made aware of Mark's passing. It breaks our hearts since he became a trust friend and doctor. We have been seeing him since he came to Indianapolis so well over 30 years. He fitted our kids with their first glasses as well as our teenage grandchildren. I have macular regeneration and he kept very close watch over my eyes. I'm happy to say that has saved my eye sight. He has set a very high bar for our eye care and will be greatly missed.

Lantz ,Lorraine, and the Snider family - February 24, 2025 at 11:54 AM

KD

“ Dr. Roark was a fantastic doctor. I am very saddened to learn about his passing. My sincerest condolences to his family, friends and to all who knew and love him.

Kelly Dooley - July 02, 2024 at 09:01 PM

JC

“ I've been seeing Dr. Roark since he was at the Shadeland office. I have kerataconus and was recommended to have corneal transplant surgery back in the mid 1990s. Dr. Roark has always fitted me with the latest contact lenses for my condition and I've able to function without having surgery to this day. He was a great doctor and an even better person. We'll miss him! God Bless!

joey Cruz - June 30, 2024 at 01:21 AM

VF

“ Anne,
I'm sorry that we did not go to the funeral. Dillon suffers from depression and he was not up to going. My sister, Karen, Sharon's twin, passed away in April from Dementia and her funeral was just two month's ago. I have been thinking of you and your family all day and praying for you. Ken and Sharon and their son Randy and his family are in Michigan on vacation. That is why they didn't go to the funeral. Vivian Frost

Vivian A Frost - June 29, 2024 at 05:08 PM

TF

“ *The Whittaker Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.*



The Whittaker Family - June 28, 2024 at 09:33 PM

VF

“ Anne,
I have cried and cried for you and your children. God blessed you with quite a gentleman just like your dad and brothers. Mark fit so well in your family that he probably seemed more like a son and brother instead of a son in-law and brother in-law. After reading his obituary, I thought to myself that I'm sure you and your family were amazed at all Mark did in his life and all of the people he wanted to help. He was quite a blessing indeed. I will certainly keep you and your family in my prayers. May God be with you all and bless you. Vivian Frost

Vivian A Frost - June 28, 2024 at 05:18 PM

AT

“ Allisonville Eye Care Center Team purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



Allisonville Eye Care Center Team - June 28, 2024 at 02:01 PM

RM

“ Mark was an amazing friend and colleague. He and I started our private practices around the same time, some 25 years ago. We shared our experiences and worked together to find the best opportunities with various equipment and software vendors over the years. Before I called Mark, I would prepare myself for a long conversation because we had so much to talk about. I will sincerely miss the friendship and conversations but feel blessed to have known him and his family. Mark contributed to optometry and our community in so many ways and certainly left behind huge footprints while serving our Lord. Many prayers to Anne, David, Anita, Darla and rest of the Roark family. Raj Macha

Raj Macha - June 28, 2024 at 12:33 PM

LF

“ Love from Kerry Mann and Family purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



Love from Kerry Mann and Family - June 28, 2024 at 12:32 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



June 28, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ Central Indiana Optometric Society purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



Central Indiana Optometric Society - June 28, 2024 at 11:13 AM



“ Andy & Annie Farley purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



Andy & Annie Farley - June 28, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ I did not know Dr Roark on a personal level but attended several lectures he gave through CIOS. He taught me a lot and helped to make me a better doctor; for that I'll forever be grateful. I am devastated to hear of his passing and will be thinking of him and his family during this sorrowful time. His passion and spirit will carry on in all the doctors and people who have learned from him.

Courtney Gonzales - June 27, 2024 at 09:17 PM

JC

“ Jeff K., Mark D., Dan C. & Ray C. purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



Jeff K., Mark D., Dan C. & Ray C. - June 27, 2024 at 04:14 PM

BP

“ I'm so sorry to hear this. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Belinda Pratt - June 27, 2024 at 01:25 PM

TF

“ The Black Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Mark W. Roark.



The Black Family - June 27, 2024 at 12:23 PM

JF

“ I remember Mark singing with Charlene and Nancy at what was then the Community Gospel Tabernacle in Auburn, Ohio when his father, Rev. Charles Roark was our pastor. Praying for your comfort.

Jerry Fuller - June 27, 2024 at 11:05 AM

SC

“ I’m grateful I got to know Dr. Roark. He and Ann (who was my first ever Sunday School teacher) meant a lot to me as a little girl. I remember we used to have a section of people playing instruments on Sundays at Southeastern. They’d sit up there on the right side of the platform, and I can see him sitting up there, playing his guitar and smiling so vividly in my minds eye even now. My other happy memory is that he was my first ever eye doctor. I got my first pair of glasses from him, and I was so excited. I went to the waiting room after he did my exam, picked the ones I wanted out, and thought they somehow automatically had my prescription in them and that I could just waltz on out of there with them. :-) I’m thankful for the kindness he showed everyone, and for the legacy of care he’s leaving behind. I’m so sorry for the loss here on earth, but rejoicing for the hope of Heaven. Praying for Gods peace to be a comfort to you all.

Skye Conrad - June 27, 2024 at 12:49 AM

CW

*I worked at MetroHealth and also saw Dr. Roark as a patient. A couple of years ago I was able to get my 90 year old father in to see him.
He was was very attentive.
May Peace be with you and your family.
Christina White-Young*

Christina White-Young - August 01, 2024 at 08:36 PM

SE

“ Words can't even describe the heartbreak I am feeling! My condolences to all Dr. Roark's family & friends. I grew up with the Roarks, they've been dear family friends of ours since I was a kid. Our families were always together celebrating birthdays, holidays, going over to each others houses. I looked up to Dr. Roark in so many ways & he was the incredible Dad who raised some of my dearest life long friends! He was always so positive & encouraging, supportive & genuinely interested in what was going on in all our lives with school, career, etc. I have so many memories that include him, but I'll share the first one that came to my mind. When I was a student in cosmology school, as you can imagine, it's like pulling teeth to get people to come have a student who basically has no experience cutting hair to give them a haircut! So when Dr. Roark told me he was going to make a haircut appt. at my school to have me cut his hair I knew he was showing support & encouraging me as a cosmetology student but I had my doubts if he would actually follow through! & I wouldn't have blamed him if he did back out! :) BUT I remember one day they said my next client had arrived & it was Dr. Roark waiting for me in the waiting area! I remember being so scared I'd mess up & I'm sure that was the longest haircut he had ever had! I remember him being so patient, encouraging & supportive during that 2-2.5 hour haircut! 😊 Thankfully it turned out better than I even thought it could & I'm sure his positivity & cheering me on had everything to do with that! I've gone on to give him countless haircuts since then. About a month ago I had the honor to cut his hair not knowing it would be the very last time. I'll cherish that memory forever. He is already so missed here on earth. There's such a giant void where he once was! Heaven has definitely gotten even better now that he's there! ☐👍

Sylvia Ealy - June 26, 2024 at 10:34 PM



“ Dr. Roark was an amazing person, who would always strike conversation with you and make you feel welcomed in a room full of people. He always had a smile on his face and always laughing with the most trendiest glasses! He touched so many lives, including mine and he always had great advice to give and great insight. He will be greatly missed! So thankful for the hope of heaven! I'm praying for his family through this difficult time.



“Blessed are they that mourn:for they shall be comforted” Matthew 5:4❤️

MarkandEvanne Leach - June 26, 2024 at 10:20 PM