



Dr. Daniel Earl Polter

December 17, 1933 - September 26, 2021

Dr. Daniel Earl Polter, 87, son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, friend and respected member of the Dallas medical community, passed away peacefully at home on September 26, 2021 surrounded by family.

Dan was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 17, 1933, the third child of Joseph Polter, an immigrant from Austria and Gertrude Hetzel of Dayton, Ohio. In 1944 the family moved to Norman, Oklahoma where they lived until moving to Dallas in 1946. Dan graduated from Sunset High School and then attended the University of Texas in Austin where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. While at the University of Texas he joined the Tejas Club where he developed many lifelong friends. He attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, graduating in 1959 and was a member of the AOA Honorary Medical Society, Then he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital before serving two years in the medical Corps of the US Army, stationed in Orleans, France. Upon returning to the US, the family moved to Los Angeles where Dan completed a fellowship in Gastroenterology at Wadsworth VA Medical Center. In 1966 the family resettled in Dallas, Texas. Once back in Dallas Dan established the Gastroenterology (GI) lab and program at the VA Hospital before entering private practice.

In 1971 he set up a GI Lab and program at Baylor University Medical Center where he was the Chief until 2003. During his years at Baylor he spearheaded the inception of Baylor's liver transplant program and held the position of Chairman of the transplant selection committee from 1985-1992, he served as President, BUMC Staff, 1990-1991, and Chairman of Medical Board, BUMC 1991-1992. He was a founding member of Digestive Health Associates of Texas (DHAT), which became one of the largest gastroenterology practices in the country. Dan was President, Texas Society for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy, 1998-2000. During his years in practice he served on many local, state, and national medical committees and boards. In 1996 Dan received the Distinguished Clinician Award from the American Gastroenterological Association. In 2010 Dan received the Project Access Dallas Volunteer Physician of the Year Award for

volunteering and community service. He was a longtime supporter and board member of the Visiting Nurse Association and delivered Meals on Wheels with his wife Lucy and an occasional grandchild.

While medicine was unquestionably one of Dan's passions in life his energy and curiosity extended far beyond the hospital. He loved traveling the world with his wife Lucy. In their 64 years of marriage they visited all seven continents; though, of all the travel Dan did, his most

favorite trips were those he and Lucy took with each of their grandchildren. A consummate learner, Dan enjoyed reading (particularly history), and attending the Tate Lecture Series events at SMU. Dan also enjoyed tennis, gardening, snow skiing and especially running. He was a member of the Baylor GI department White Rock Marathon relay team, the "GI Runs", (yes, he was funny , too). Dan made an annual ski trip with a group of friends who called themselves "The Screaming Eagles." In addition to his own athletic endeavors, he spent hours on the tennis court each summer fielding balls and manning the ball machine for his five grandchildren. He and Lucy have also been enduring supporters of the arts in Dallas, especially the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO).

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, grandson, Ezra Polter and son, David Polter. He is survived by his wife, Lucy Polter, son, Adam Polter of Carrollton, TX, daughter, Marie McDermott (Harry) of Tucson, AZ, daughter in law, Robbin Polter of Austin, TX, sisters Kay Mudd and Margaret Potteiger and his grandchildren Katie McDermott, Danny McDermott, Megan McDermott, and Mariel Polter. A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 13, at 12 noon at the First United Methodist Church of Dallas at Ross and Harwood Streets. If you would like to honor Dan, in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Meals on Wheels.

Events

NOV **Memorial Service** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

13

First United Methodist Church, Dallas

1928 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX, US, 75201

Comments



“ Friends, colleagues and patients will forever remember Dr. Polter with affection and gratefulness. He was a kind, thoughtful and humble physician and a warm and giving friend. Catherine and Themos Dassopoulos

Themos Dassopoulos - November 13 at 12:06 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Daniel Earl Polter.



November 11 at 04:51 PM



“ Dan was a wonderful teacher and role model for so many physicians. Dan changed our lives by inviting Lannie to be his first GI Fellow. Dan's intellect and ethics showed the way for so many of us to follow. We are forever grateful for his mentoring and leadership. Our sympathy goes out to Lucy and family. You must be consoled by the fact Dan's was a life well- lived.

Linda and Lannie Hughes

Linda and Lannie Hughes - October 16 at 08:59 PM



“ Dr. Polter was not only a consummate physician, but a generous, caring, and thoughtful teacher and friend. He felt that it was always the right thing to do the right thing. He was an exemplar of what each person should strive to be. Our thoughts are with Lucy and the rest of his family. You should take solace from the fact that the world is a better place because he did his best to make it so.

Ann & Larry Schiller - October 03 at 12:55 PM