



Dr Donald Wayne Edwards

June 11, 1925 - September 27, 2018

Dr. Donald Wayne Edwards died peacefully on Thursday night, September 27, 2018 at his home in Heritage Square in Dixon, IL. He was 93. The world has lost a gentle and compassionate soul, a country doctor, a mentor, a friend, and beloved Dad, Uncle, and Grandpa. We are indeed lucky that he walked and lived in our lifetimes. He loved well and was loved in return and will be missed by many.

Dr. Don, or “Doc,” as he was known by many, was born on June 11, 1925 in Rochelle, Illinois, the second of two sons of Howard M. Edwards, M.D., and Ila Olson Edwards, both from Lee, Illinois. After graduating from Dixon High School, where he was an athlete, a thespian, and a journalist, he attended Dartmouth College from 1943 to 1945. His college career was interrupted in 1945 when he was inducted into the U.S. Army, ultimately scheduled in August for deployment to fight in the battle for Japan. A few days before he shipped out, atom bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and by the time Don arrived in Japan, the war was over. Doc served in Japan with the occupation forces on Okinawa. After completing his service, he returned stateside, resumed college, and was graduated with the Dartmouth College class of 1947. He received a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois and worked in farm seed sales and dairy calf production in Lee County. Donald married the love of his life, Rosanne Deutsch, R.N., in 1951 at St. Patrick’s Church in Dixon. They raised three children and were together until Rosanne’s death in 2010.

Don studied medicine at Albany Medical College, Albany, NY, completing his residence in pediatrics at St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, NY, and St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City, NY. Dr. Don Edwards joined the Edwards Clinic with his father and brother, Howard M. Edwards, Jr. M.D. in 1962. He was the first pediatrician in Dixon and cared for generations of children and parents. His job was to inspire young parents who were often very insecure of their abilities. His mission was to create in parents a sense of calm, of blessed reassurance that everything will be all right. Dr. Don always took all the time you needed. He also cared for patients at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon and the Dixon State School until his retirement in 2002. He truly loved and respected the family of doctors, nurses, and staff that he worked with throughout his career.

Dr. Don, with his wife Rosanne, helped to found the Sinnissippi Mental Health Center, serving on its board of directors for many years. He worked as the local representative for the American Medical Association, and the Downstate Illinois Pediatrics Society, advocating for better health policies in Illinois and the U.S. After retirement, Doc was proud to serve with the American Legion in Dixon, honoring veterans at their funerals as part of the Honor Guard. He reveled in the comradeship of the Forty-and Eight-Veterans and the Friday night dinner crew at the Legion. He appreciated the friendships and trips that they provided for him and Rosanne.

Doc was a curious and inventive soul. He was interested in the world and making it a better place. He had a sketch book of ideas to improve everything from farming techniques that were more environmentally friendly, to protective football helmets, to sailboat sails for river travel. He loved to sail! His plan was always to take off for Bimini and end his life like a Viking, on board ship. Instead he died in his beloved hometown of Dixon, IL. His family will be forever grateful for the loving care he received from Heritage Square and the friendships he developed there throughout the years. They also thank Serenity Hospice Care and Castor Nursing for their beautiful and passionate care during the last couple of months. All three organizations made it possible

for Dr. Don to die as he lived his life: on his own terms and with dignity. Dr. Don is survived by his children: Theresa Allen (Mark) of Batavia, IL; Catherine Hill (Bruce) of Dove Creek, CO; James Edwards (Sandra) of Chicago, IL; grandchildren: Esther Allen (m. to Chris Barclay), Julie Allen, Nancy E. Allen, and Hilary Allen (m. to Marcelo Manzo). Family and friends also include Stephani and Will Revilla; Mark and Jean Zinnen; Thomas Zinnen and Kristen Velyvis Zinnen; David and Tammy Zinnen; Elizabeth and Scott Albert; Dan and Cheryl Zinnen; Nancy and Phil Mercer; Ray and Angela Zinnen, Mary Hahn, Carol Edwards (Don) Herringa, Suzi Edwards (Dave) Erickson, Rusty (Lori) Edwards, Jody Albrecht; Chip and Linda Bareis; and Geoff and Barb Rigabar.

The wake will be held at the Holloway Center at St. Patrick's Church in Dixon on Friday night, October 5, from 4:00 until 8:00 PM with a scripture service at 7:30 PM. The funeral Mass will take place Saturday at 10:30 AM at St. Pat's followed by internment with Military Honors at Oakwood Cemetery. The repast luncheon will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 506 W. 3rd Street in Dixon. Arrangements are through Jones Funeral Home. Memorials may be sent to St Patrick's Church, the American Legion, and Sinnissippi Mental Health Center, all in Dixon, IL.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **5**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St Patrick Catholic Church Holloway Center
612 Highland Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Service

OCT **6**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St Patrick Catholic Church Holloway Center
612 Highland Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr Donald Wayne Edwards*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Dr Donald Wayne Edwards*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Taps has sounded for Dr. Don Edwards. He was a great medical doctor, a great humanitarian, and a great member of the military community. He will be missed.*

Colonel West

Colonel West - June 03, 2019 at 06:06 PM



“ *Dear Cathy and Bruce, and Terry and Jim and families:*

I am so sorry to hear about your father. My deepest sympathy goes out to all of you. He was a very kind man and so sincere. Deeply loved by the community. I recently lost my mother and I know the heartache you are going through. Prayers to you and your families.

Colleen Stauffer

Colleen Stauffer - October 08, 2018 at 12:18 AM

JR

“ So sorry for your loss. Wanted to make visitation but had unexpected company. Your Dad and mother were very close friends of our families. In fact they were God parents of my sister Judy. She could not attend, lives in Colorado, but sends her condolences. All of your family are in our prayers. Love you. Joan Boward Richards

joan richards - October 07, 2018 at 02:44 PM

TK

“ We are all so sorry about the loss of your father, grandfather, and friend to so many. My (Terry) fond memory is when he walked Terry down the aisle at Esther Katie's wedding. Plus I loved celebrating our birthday together on June 11! Sending love and strength to all of you.

Love, Terry Koepke and family

Terry Koepke - October 05, 2018 at 10:29 AM

RB

“ The Rod Burton family sends condolences to Terry Allen and the Edwards family. The obituary was glorious, and shows that Dr. Don was one of the 'Greatest Generation.'

Rod Burton - October 05, 2018 at 09:11 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr Donald Wayne Edwards.



October 04, 2018 at 03:23 PM

JM

“ *Jill Miller lit a candle in memory of Dr Donald Wayne Edwards*



jill miller - October 03, 2018 at 09:17 PM

JM

“ *Dr. Don was my children's pediatrician he was always so, good with both of them. My daughter was premature and weighted 6lbs and 10 oz. His brother delivered her and he took over from him. He will truly be missed. I remember calling one day thinking my children had chicken pox and said bring them to the clinic after it closes , he would meet me at the door. That's the kind of doctor he was patient's first. My deepest symptom to his family.*

Jill Miller

jill miller - October 03, 2018 at 09:16 PM

DS

“ *Dennis P. Stowell purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Dr Donald Wayne Edwards.*



Dennis P. Stowell - October 03, 2018 at 01:14 AM

DS

“ Dr. Don was a wonderful Pediatrician to my 2 children. My Deepest Condolences to his family during this difficult time and his extended family who will miss his company at Friday night dinner at the American Legion in Dixon.

Dennis P. Stowell - October 02, 2018 at 11:55 PM

MH

“ To a wonderful colleague, mentor and friend; the world lost a beautiful soul with your passing.
Thank you for initiating me into real world pediatrics, after my ivory tower training.
Just like all of your patients, my boys loved you too Don.
I hope I lived up to your ideals.
Dr. Manorama Hermon

Manorama Hermon - October 02, 2018 at 12:42 PM

JS

“ I remember he always carried his stethoscope in his pocket so it was warm when he put it on your skin. I think everything he did was thought out like that in order to give comfort to his patients. He was my doctor from six until I had to "graduate" to Howard Jr. He was the first doctor to attend my youngest daughter in the nursery at KSB in 1996. God made no better man. I offer my most sincere condolences. Jack Schrauth

Jack Schrauth - October 02, 2018 at 09:15 AM

GP

“ Dr. Don was so special to our family. He was my doctor and my kid’s doctor. Special memory was when I saw him at the VFW at a pancake breakfast. Asked him what he missed about KSB. He said “the gossip”. What??!???!? This totally gentlemanly person actually missed the “gossip”??!?? That was inspiring to me. I have many other memories, however, I just want to say I will NEVER forget him. Please keep your memories about him alive. Bless your family. Geri Perkowski

geri perkowski - October 02, 2018 at 01:00 AM

MH

“ Patti and I will always treasure the kindness and reassurance both Rosanne and Dr. Don offered us on New Year’s Eve in 1982. We were very concerned about our newborn son’s colic condition and telephoned them. They were so kind and helpful - - when they had every right to be upset about having their holiday evening inter smiles and unddrupted by yet another seltof overprotective parents. Over the phone I could sense their smiles and understanding. They were BOTH EXEMPLARY PEOPLE !!



mike heckman - October 01, 2018 at 09:08 PM

DM

“ Sorry for your loss prayers God bless Debra merritt

debra merritt - October 01, 2018 at 03:35 PM