



Dr. Howard Wilkins

April 9, 2021

Dr. Howard Boykin Wilkins, age 91, beloved local ophthalmologist, passed away at his home in Hatton Point on Friday, April 9, 2021 with his loving family and friends at his side. Howard was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and was the son of the late Abbye Alexander Wilkins and James Arthur Wilkins. He grew up in Olde Towne where his family was in the coal and hardware business. Howard was named for his grandfathers, Henry Boykin Wilkins of Gates County, North Carolina, and John Howard Alexander of Baltimore, Maryland.

Howard attended the University of Richmond and was a 1956 graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. He interned at Naval Hospital Bethesda and served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps while stationed in Bermuda and later Rota, Spain. After the Navy, he trained in ophthalmology in Sweden for one year and completed his residency at Northwestern University Hospital in Chicago. He practiced ophthalmology in Portsmouth for many years and loved spending weekends at his Sandbridge cottage. He also loved to travel, especially enjoying his many trips to Brazil, Europe, and Egypt which he visited twice with his old friend, the late Dr. Emile Sayegh. Howard was a bon vivant, loved the finer things in life, enjoyed flying Air France and spending great times in Paris with friends and visitors, and living near the Eiffel Tower. He was very interested in photography, art, history, and model trains, especially of the European variety.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved sister Millicent Anne Carney and her long-time love, Rick Arrigo of Portsmouth; his best friend Jerry Meads of Pinehurst, NC, and Jerry's daughters Margaret Meads Nordlinger of New York City and Sandra Meads Turturro of Roswell, Georgia; John Chow of Paris; and a host of local friends. The family would like to thank good friends Jerry Langley, Danny Lee, Dr. Jerry Parsons, Debbie Baker, and caregiver Denise for their loving care during the last year of Howard's life.

Loving Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Cremation and private burial service at a later date are planned.

Tribute Wall

PF

“ I just found out about Howard's passing. Such a wonderful person and a very close friend of my Father, Ronn Maratea. They met through photography and founded a long and lasting friendship. He became one of the family and will be missed. Sincerest condolences to all family and friends.

Paula Maratea Fuld - November 09, 2022 at 02:08 PM

PC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Wilkins passing. My parents and siblings were patients of his many, many years ago. I remember as a young college student in the late 70's/80's I would go to my yearly eye appointment and Dr. Wilkins was so kind to give me a discount or not even charge me. I remember he would talk about his travels. He was truly a special person and will be missed by many people.

Sending my condolences to his family.

Patricia Clifford - April 20, 2021 at 04:39 PM

CV

“ I worked for Dr. Wilkins for over 30 years, and have many fond memories of my time in his office. He was an excellent Ophthalmologist, always making sure that his patients had the best of care. He did love his model trains, and many a time I watched as he climbed down from his model train track to go to the exam room, when I announced that he had a patient ready. He was very conscience of his schedule and never kept his patients waiting longer than a few minutes. One of the things I liked best about him was his kindness to his patients, by allowing me to give discounts to those who did not have insurance and very little money. That was a blessing for me.

He did travel all over the world, and always brought me back a wonderful gift. I have many lovely pieces from Egypt, London and Brazil, (not to mention the wonderful chocolates that he brought back from Paris - YUM).

To Anne and Rick, I wanted you both to know how glad I am that I got to know both of you. Your kindness to me was a wonderful gift, and I send my sincere condolences for your loss.

Carol Vernon - April 20, 2021 at 12:36 PM

FM

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Howard for about 10 years through a doctor-patient relationship. He was so appreciative that when he returned to the US, he would present me with French chocolates, and French soaps for my wife - proudly stating that they were smuggled out in his trench coat. We became e-mail correspondents largely trading in politics to our mutual good humor. Acting upon his invitation, my wife, daughter, and I visited Howard in Paris. After drinks in his apartment, he treated us to dinner at his favorite restaurant. In the dictionary, his picture should be next to the definition of bon vivant. He took some portrait photographs of each of us and brought back copies when he returned home later. He could not have been more a fun and gracious person to know.

F. N. Parent III, MD - April 13, 2021 at 06:55 PM