



## Dr. Ned H. Cassem, S.J.

January 24, 1935 - July 4, 2015

Dr. Ned H. Cassem, SJ, MD of West Hartford, CT passed away peacefully on the night of July 4th in the comfort of his home with his family and caregivers by his side. Ned was born in Omaha, NE on the 24th of January, 1935 along with his twin brother John. Ned and John grew up in Omaha and attended Creighton Prep together before furthering their Jesuit educations separately. Ned attended Saint Louis University and went on to Harvard Medical School where he specialized in Psychiatry, graduating cum laude in 1966. He completed his theological degree and became an ordained Jesuit priest in 1970. A caring physician with a brilliant career in Consultation-Liaison-Psychiatry, and an expert in palliative care, he served as one of the greats in his field. Ned was Chief of the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital from 1989 to 2000, and became Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. His passions went well beyond his global prominence as an empathetic end-of-life care authority. He was an avid outdoorsman - a 3-time Boston Marathoner, a skilled diver and underwater photographer, and an avian enthusiast. Ned was arguably among the most ardent supporters of our military, his fervor grounded in his own service to humanity as a civilian doctor in Vietnam during the summer of 1970, caring for children and families amidst the war. Ned is pre-deceased by his father Edwin, mother Winifred and twin John. Ned is survived by his sister in law, Audrey, and his nieces and nephews: Erin, Tom (Karen), Bridget and Gregory (Erin) and great-nephews Thomas, Riley and Craig. There will be a funeral mass for

Ned at 10am on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ned H. Cassem, S.J., M.D. Endowed Scholarship at Creighton Medical School, P.O. Box 30282, Omaha, NE 68103-1382 or [giving.creighton.edu](http://giving.creighton.edu) (please indicate the Ned Cassem Endowed Scholarship Fund). Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

PK

“ As a third semester student at Marquette University in Milwaukee I had a breakdown and was hospitalized for four weeks. While my mother was visiting my Jesuit theology professor he encouraged her to contact Ned as a potential psychiatrist for me upon my return to Boston. Ned referred me to one of his MGH colleagues who I stayed with up until his retirement 33 years later. I'm still being treated by and MGH psychiatrist and third year residents. RIP Ned.

---

**Patrick Kennedy** - July 25, 2024 at 05:02 AM

JC

“ I don't know what made me think of Dr Cassem today, and I was so sad to read of his passing. I met him many years ago, in the late 1970s and we dove together in the Red Sea. He was an absolute joy to dive with and to know. I know he is missed greatly by all his family and friends.

---

**Joan Carroll** - March 26, 2020 at 04:42 PM

 Yeou-Cheng Ma

“ Dr. Ned Cassem was one of the most remarkable teachers I had in Medical School. He was able to give the impression that you had his undivided attention when he listened to you speak, an amazing gift of an intense and attentive listener. RIP Dr. Cassem, and love and sympathy to the family!

---

**Yeou-Cheng Ma** - August 14, 2015 at 05:26 PM

PM

“ Ned married us, in 1971. In the backyard of my wife’s parents’ house in Monroe, CT, where the trees served as our chuppah for the ceremony, Ned recited the blessing in Hebrew prior to my stepping on the wine glass. In lots of ways, the event was a celebration for the group of us who had worked together at Mass Mental Health Center during the preceding three years. Ned’s guiding presence at the ceremony and celebration served us well as it had over all our time together.

— Peter and Karen Miller

---

**Peter Miller** - July 18, 2015 at 09:14 AM

RP

“ I was another one of those persons who had the unique pleasure of knowing, studying and sharing parts of my Jesuit life with Neddy Cassem. He and his brother John were good friends. Neddy was an amazing person with a singular ambition in life to make it better for all of us but, in particular, for the people facing later life and all of the difficulties sometimes associated with that aspect of one’s personal life.

*I know we shall all miss him dearly and we can all rest assured that we have a great representative interceding for us with the Good Lord and his Heavenly Host.*

*Bob Power*

---

**Robert M. Power** - July 15, 2015 at 02:40 PM

AG

“ Sorry about the loss of the brilliant and wonderful man. Bernice and Arnold Goldenberg

---

**Arnold Goldenberg** - July 10, 2015 at 04:25 PM

LN

“ *I would like to express my sympathy to Audrey in the death of her husband John's twin brother. He was a remarkable man.....*

---

**Liz Noniewicz** - July 09, 2015 at 04:00 PM