

## Federick J. O'Brien

September 2, 1928 - April 15, 2008

Dr. Frederick J. O'Brien of West Hartford and Narragansett, R.I., passed away peacefully with his family by his side on April 15, 2008 at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Providence, R.I., to Helen Carey and John O'Brien, Fred was a graduate of La Salle Academy, Brown University and Boston University School of Medicine. After a year of internship at St. Francis Hospital, he spent two years in the U.S. Air Force, followed by two years of Medical Residency at Boston V.A. Hospital. Fred returned to St. Francis Hospital for his third year of residency and started his private practice of Internal Medicine in 1960, retiring in 2005. A true gentleman, Fred was devoted to his family, his faith, his medical practice and patients, his colleagues, and his many dear friends. He will forever be remembered for his integrity, kindness and gentle dignity. Fred is survived by his wife, Virginia Ginny Murphy O'Brien and their seven children, their spouses, and 14 grandchildren: son Michael, his wife Ann and their children, Michael and Kelly, all of Cheshire; daughter Joan, her husband David Wildfeuer and their daughter Rachel, all of Berwyn, PA; son Timothy, his wife Linda and their children, Sarah and Kevin, all of Wellesley, MA; son Daniel, his wife Andrea and their daughters Megan, Claire and Erin, all of West Hartford; daughter Erin, her husband Brian Earley and their children Christina, Meredith, Sean and Brigid, all of Franklin, MA; daughter Nora of Santa Monica, CA; and daughter Carey, her husband Chris McGlynn, and sons Conor and Brendan, of Oakville, Ontario. Fred is also survived by his sister Helen and her husband Joe Sapkowski; his brother Albert and his wife

Mary, and his sister-in-law Ann O'Brien. And he leaves behind many dear nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Besides his parents and his brother Jack, Fred was predeceased by his infant daughter, Mary, his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Grace and Jack Murphy and Joanne and Tom Lee, and his precious granddaughter, Nicole Wildfeuer. An avid sports fan, one of Fred's greatest pleasures was watching his children and grandchildren play sports. He played tennis weekly, found joy and frustration on the golf course, and spent a lifetime cheering for his beloved Red Sox. Visitation will be from 4PM – 8PM on Friday, April 18th at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. Funeral services will be Saturday April 19th at 10:30 a.m. from the funeral home with the celebration of a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle church, West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Donations in his memory may be made to the Nicole E. Wildfeuer Memorial Fund, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 34th Street and Civic Center Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19104. Letters of condolence may be sent via the funeral home's web site at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Erin, Brian, and the O'Brien Family,

*I was sorry to hear of the passing of your dad. I remember him so fondly, always smiling.*

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers now, as always.*

*With love and sympathy.##imported-begin##Theresa Kirby##imported-end##*

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April 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest O'Brien Family,

*To have known your Dad is to know a true man. He graced so many lives so beautifully. May you feel God by your side during this time of great sadness. My love, thoughts and prayers go out to you all.*

*Sincerely, Debbie Pace Sitzmann and Family##imported-begin##Deborah Pace Sitzmann##imported-end##*

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April 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien Family. By great coincidence I found Fred's obit in the Narragansett Times on April 18. I am sincerely moved by your close family. I remember clearly Fred as a fellow Resident in Medicine at the Boston VA Hospital in the late '50s. He was a shy, but strong, intelligent and confident physician. We were together for two years. When he settled in Hartford we found him and his family to be a neighbor to my wife's sister and brother-in-law on Dauntless Way, and visited him at least once in the 1960's. He is in the photo I have framed of our group at the VA.

I was aware of his sterling reputation in Hartford and at St. Francis.

My wife, Jane, and I send our heartfelt condolences and good wishes to you; Fred O'Brien left a great legacy. Joe

Belsky##imported-begin##Joseph L. Belsky, MD##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I just learned of Dr O'Brien's death and wanted you to know how sorry I am to learn of this great man's passing. I worked as a nurse at St Mary Home for many years and saw Dr O'Brien regularly. He was unceasingly cheerful and compassionate to all of us, residents and staff alike. He took wonderful care of his patients and was greatly loved and admired. My prayers are with your family.##imported-begin##carol krause##imported-end##

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April 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien Family,  
Your beloved Husband and Father was my primary care Physician for the last 17 yrs. of his practice. What a wonderful Doctor and human being. It was a privilege to be cared for by him and to have known him. He was indeed a man of Faith filled with kindness, integrity and a gentleman of the highest order. Your loss is felt by many. The world is a better place because Fred O'Brien walked among us. My deepest sympathy in this hour of sorrow to you all, and be assured of my prayers for his happy repose. May the Good Lord be your source of strength in this sad time. God Bless!###imported-begin##Joseph M. O'Keefe##imported-end##

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April 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ginny and family:

*Pat and I were shocked and saddened to learn of Fred's death. It doesn't seem that long ago that I saw him looking so fit in his retirement.*

*He was a fine family man, a caring doctor and committed Christian. He kept me in good health for 45 years. This Sunday he will have our special prayers at Mass.*

*Our sympathies to the entire family.*

*Bob Hilliard###imported-begin##Boband Pat Hilliard##imported-end##*

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the O'Brien Family;  
Fred was my doctor when I was living in Hartford many years ago. He was also physician to my dear friend Fr. John Murphy from St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church. Most importantly he was a friend and classmate of my father, Gerry McDavitt Sr. at La Salle High School and is pictured in my parent's wedding album. It was a great treat for Dad to reconnect with Fred when I was living in Hartford on Woodland Street. He sends his condolences and prayers as well.

Sincerely;  
Gerry McDavitt jr.##imported-begin##gerry mcdavitt jr.##imported-end##

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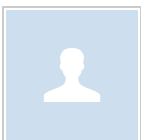
April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan,  
On behalf of all our co workers our sincere condolences on your loss.  
Paul##imported-begin##paul glass##imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ St. Francis Hosp. has had many good but, just a few extraordinary physicians. Dr. O'Brien was in the latter category. He was always a gentleman and treated all patients and staff with respect.  
If our health care system had more people like Dr. O'Brien, the system would function a whole lot better.  
May God be with you in this time of great sorrow.  
Greta L. Rich##imported-begin##Greta L. Rich##imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael and Family,*

*You and Your family have my deepest sympathy. May God give you comfort and the strength in the time of your lost. Keep the faith and be strong. My prayers are with you and your loved ones. May God Bless You. From Cheryl Douglas###imported-begin##Cheryl Douglas###imported-end##*

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear O'Brien Family,*

*Your Father was always such a kind, gentle soul to all of us that spent time with you. It is an honor to have known him, and the best of him continues to live in all of you. God Bless, you are all in our prayers.*

*Sincerely,*

*Teresa Mobilio Toomey and family###imported-begin##Teresa Mobilio Toomey###imported-end##*

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ginny and Family,*

*We were truly saddened after learning of Fred's passing. While we were not socially close with you and Fred, our kids played with yours and they grew up together. You were long time good neighbors, along with Larry. We have a firm belief that there is an afterlife and we take comfort from that. We hope you share that belief. Please accept our sympathies.###imported-begin##Bill & Phyllis Glater###imported-end##*

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April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien Family,

*I don't even know where to begin. Dr. O'Brien has been part of my family's life longer than I have! He was such a kind, gentle man. He will be missed greatly. We will light a candle for him at our son's First Eucharist on Saturday.*

*In sorrow and prayer,  
"little" Erin and Jeff Scott, Brendan, Colin, Sean and  
Bridget##imported-begin##Erin O'Brien Scott##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Earley Family,

*We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers especially at this time.*

*Peace be with you.##imported-begin##Rachwal Family##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear O'Brien Family,

*I am deeply sorry to hear of your loss. Dr. O'Brien was truly a good man, and a good friend to my family for many years. He will be missed by many. I know the days ahead will be difficult, but just remember his spirit stays alive in all of you, in your hearts and in all the wonderful memories you have of him.##imported-begin##Patt Tharpe##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike and Dan-

*Dona and I extend our sincere condolences to you on the passing of your father. I have never known nor worked with such a kind and gentle man. Know that he will be missed. You and your families are in our thoughts and in our prayers.##imported-begin##Jim Casey##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To The O'Brien Family,

*I feel very fortunate to have had the honor of working with Dr. O'Brien for almost seventeen years. He was a very special person and made going to a job a pleasurable experience. I will always remember what good times we had while working.*

*Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. He'll be forever missed, I know, but now you have your wonderful memories of him and how he made your lives more special for being a part of them.*

*Karen Celio##imported-begin##Karen Celio##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan, Andrea and family,

*My thoughts and prayers are with you at the sad time. May the good memories you have with your Dad comfort you during your time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Diane Barrett##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Virginia and Family...*

*On behalf on my mother, Ruth Link and myself I am extending our sincere sympathies to all of you.*

*These events are never easy. You are so very fortunate to have your wonderful extended family to help you celebrate Fred's life.*

*Shine On!*

*Susan O'Connor##imported-begin##Susan O'Connor##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Ginny & O'Brien Clan,*

*Jennifer and I are so sorry to hear of Fred's passing away. You guys have been such good friends of my parents. Fred was a genuine person, a very kind soul, with a great heart. We're truly sorry for your loss.*

*With Love & Sympathy,*

*Michael & Jennifer Meehan##imported-begin##Michael & Jennifer Meehan##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike, Ann and your entire family,*

*These are difficult and sad times, hold on to your wonderful memories of an incredible man, and each other, to get through.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Regards, Betty##imported-begin##Betty Anderson##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the O'Brien Family,*

*Please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. O'Brien.*

*His commitment to family, friends, fun and professionalism set a standard that is tough to beat.*

*I still remember that blue SS Camaro thinking, "what a cool guy".*

*At this point in my life it seems even "cooler" today. He was a class act.*

*Our thoughts are with you and Dr. O'Brien today.*

*Regards,*

*Ed & April Maguire##imported-begin##Ed Maguire##imported-end##*

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April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM