



George E. McGowan MD

November 24, 2020

Dr. George Eugene McGowan passed away peacefully on November 24th at the age of 89. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Margaret “Peggy” McGowan. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada in 1931 to George and Annie McGowan, he was raised in Saint John as the fourth of six children. He graduated Valedictorian from Université Sainte-Anne, and received his medical degree from Laval University Medical School. He completed his surgical internship at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Worcester, MA, and residency at St. Mary’s Hospital, in Rochester, NY, and Deaconess and Children’s Hospitals, in Buffalo, NY. Following his fellowship in pediatric surgery at Sick Kids, Toronto, Ontario, he founded the first pediatric surgery practice in Hartford, CT working at Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Newington Children’s Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, UConn John Dempsey Hospital, and Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

George met his wife, Margaret Ann Wahle, while she was working as a night nurse in pediatrics at St Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, NY. They were married on May 19th, 1962. The birth of their son Mark and daughter’s Martha and Theresa followed and in 1966, the family settled in West Hartford, CT where their sons Greg and Joe were born. He was a loving husband and devoted father who showed his growing family the importance of a good education, hard work, integrity, and being a gentleman. He loved caring for others, telling stories, and passing on his knowledge and wisdom to those who would listen. Ultimately, he was most happy surrounded by his family.

He leaves behind five children, their spouses and 10 grandchildren: George Mark McGowan and his wife Chrissy Elizabeth McGowan of Fairfield, CT; Martha Ann McGowan and her long-time boyfriend David Michaud of West Hartford, CT; Theresa McGowan of Charleston, SC; Greg McGowan and his wife Ann McGowan of West Hartford, CT; Joseph McGowan and his wife Meghan McGowan of Boca Raton, FL; 10 Loving grandchildren: Madeline Ann, Christopher Mark and Greg George McGowan; Olivia Devlin, Riley and Mason McGowan; Tanner, Janey, Quin and Margaret McGowan. He is also survived by his brother Don McGowan, his sisters Theresa and husband Duncan Keenan and Barb and husband Bill Morrow, sister-in-law Claire McGowan, many nieces and nephews and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. He was predeceased by his sister Mary and husband Lloyd Furze, brother Murray McGowan and sisters-in-law Mary McGowan and Catherine McGowan.

In lieu of flowers, George would have been happiest knowing that you did something nice for another.

Please visit www.molloyfuneralhome.com for online expressions of sympathy.

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Mark, Martha, Theresa, Greg and Joe,

I am so sorry for your loss, wish we could all be together to celebrate and honor his passing. My favorite memory of him comes on two parts. First, was his incredible calming voice and second was he brought a motorcycle down to the Cottage and took me for my first ride, he looked like Steve McQueen!

*Love you guys, be well
Lynn Beh*

Lynn Beh - December 10, 2020 at 10:15 AM

BJ

“ Mark, Martha, Theresa, Greg and Joe,

*My condolences to the passing of your Dad, who we all remember fondly from our youth days playing sports, and of course his passion for hockey and watching all of us grow up.
He was calming influence for all of us.*

-Bill Butler

Bill Butler Jr - December 06, 2020 at 09:55 AM

PB

“ Dear Greg:

My condolences to you and your brothers and sisters. I'm sorry to hear of your father's passing. I never knew him as a physician, just a good hockey coach and a nice guy who was a huge champion of his kids. I remember I saw him and your mom on the street of Old Town Alexandria, VA, about 20 -25 years ago and I wasn't sure it was him, but he remembered me and called out. I hadn't seen him since senior year of high school, but he remembered me---how great of him!

I hope the memories of the good times with him sustain you through these sad days.

Pat Brady

Pat Brady - December 03, 2020 at 09:11 PM

VO

“ *I was very sorry to read of your Dad's death. He, your Mom, my husband, Dr. Fred and I go way back and I have nice memories! Your Dad was a wonderful Doctor and a great family man. He took loving care of your Mom and now they are together. RIP George and Peggy. Sincerely Ginny O'Brien*

Virginia O'Brien - December 01, 2020 at 09:55 AM

BB

“ So many wonderful memories of my mentor and colleague, Dr. McGowan, and so many wonderful and fun memories of my friend, “Georgie” as Dr. Macaulay lovingly called him. George escaped death at an early age when we missed our tee time at the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland because he could not be rushed to finish the pig stomach anastomoses we were learning to do laparoscopically in 1996. We got to the course 5 minutes late, because Dr. Macaulay and I knew he couldn’t really “take the bus” back to St. Andrews from Dundee. Dr. Macaulay can take credit for saving George from me, because I did want to kill him. It was very shortly thereafter that he knocked the mirror off a parked car in the narrow streets of Saint Andrew’s as we returned to the hotel. Needless to say, if I laughed any harder I would have died myself. So many joyful moments...thank you, George!

Beth Brady - November 30, 2020 at 08:45 PM

RS

“ Dear Mark, Martha, Theresa, Greg and Joe and your families, So sorry to hear of your dad’s passing. It was wonderful growing up across the street from your family. Your dad was a special man who was always ready to help with medical issues...stitches, assessing broken bones and so much more. He had such a kind way. Hopefully, he’s getting his best scores at heaven’s golf course. Cherish your memories...y’all must have many.
Renee Robinson Staples & Family Truro, Nova Scotia
Frank Robinson & Family Bedford, Nova Scotia

Renee Robinson Staples - November 30, 2020 at 08:14 PM

AH

“ In 1987, our son was 2 weeks old and diagnosed with pyloric stenosis. We were rushed to Hartford Hospital. Dr. McGowan saved his life. About 7 years later, we had to bring our daughter to Hartford Hospital. Imagine our relief when we learned who would be her surgeon. She had pseudo cysts on her pancreas. Dr. McGowan visited her every day before and after surgery to fix the cysts. She was sick on and off for about a year but he wanted to wait before operating directly on her pancreas because of how debilitating it could be for her and her future. (Most people say surgeons are quick to cut.) But he was working with Dr. Christopher Justinich and they waited and then miraculously she healed. We forever owe them our gratitude. Our son is healthy now. Our daughter is healthy and happily married now. We will never forget Dr. McGowan coming to see her - he played pool with her, and called her the Little Princess. Thank you for sharing your dad with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Henley Family

Alice Henley - November 30, 2020 at 07:56 PM

LB

“ Dear McGowan Family,
Your father cared for and saved our daughter's life during a surgery shortly after she was born. He gave us so much hope during a very difficult time. She is now a happy 24 year old. May god bless him and all of you!

Laura and Jerry Bellizzi

Laura and Jerry Bellizzi - November 30, 2020 at 05:28 PM

PL

“ Our sincere condolences to the McGowan family. Always enjoyed sidewalk chats with George. A good neighbor and friend who is missed. Peter and Patte, 167 Clifton Avenue.

Peter Leathe - November 30, 2020 at 03:37 PM

MM

“ Dear Mark, Martha, Theresa, Greg and Joe
Our deepest sympathy to you and your families.
Uncle George was always the one to make the effort to phone to get the latest and keep the Canadian clan up to date. His concern and support were always there.
Whenever he visited, there would be lots of stories of our Dads' youth. In a purposeful effort to sustain family history. He will be fondly remembered.
As a childhood friend of both of our Dads said at our Dad's passing,
" You are made of good stuff "
Sincere Condolences
Annie, Dana and Mike McGowan
Annapolis Valley
Nova Scotia

Michael McGowan - November 29, 2020 at 08:48 PM

EO

“ Working with Dr. McGowan is one of the fondest memories I have working in the NICU at UConn. He was kind and always gentle in his care with the babies and he was a calming force in an environment that was often stressful. I especially remember his willingness to teach and his contagious smile. He made the world of neonatal and pediatric healthcare a better place for the babies/children, parents, nurses, doctors, and all members of the team.

Edith Ouellet - November 29, 2020 at 06:34 PM

DT

“ Dear McGowan family, we were neighbours, friends and patients of Dr. McGowan and cannot express how much we will miss him. He was a kind, generous and compassionate person who would drop everything to help us and even in a pinch stitch up wounds. We have had the pleasure of growing up nearby in West Hartford and even if we aren't in the same neighborhood anymore, we continue to cross paths with the next generation like Mason at soccer practices. We wish you the joy that his life gave us and cannot express enough sympathy in his passing.

-With warmth,

Dana Tracy, Chuck Wusterbarth, Nolan Wusterbarth and Alexander Almazan.

Dana C Tracy - November 29, 2020 at 04:49 PM

LP

“ To the Family of Dr. McGowan, My husband and I are sorry for your loss. Your dad saved our son's life. We are eternally grateful and we prayed everyday since for God to bestow his blessings on your dad. May prayers comfort you all.

Lucy and Joe Pal - November 29, 2020 at 02:00 PM

AD

“ Dr. McGowan Family,
I had the honor and privilege of working with your father at UCONN NICU. I have never forgotten him. I have often thought of him throughout the past few years. We shared many conversations during his visits to the NICU. He was a gentle, kind man who loved his wife dearly and his family. He would often tell stories and was a wonder storyteller. I truly enjoyed working with him and will always have very fond memories of him. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

Ana Donlan

Ana Donlan - November 29, 2020 at 01:25 PM

DP

“ Dear McGowan family,
I am so sorry to hear about your dad’s passing. Your dad was very special to me. I began working with him at Hartford Hospital right out of nursing school in 1978 until CCMC was opened. I used to love hearing his stories when he was with families or just around the nursing station. He was the same age as my dad and I always looked up to him as a father figure. Thank you so much for sharing him with all of us who worked with him and took care of his pediatric patients. He was a true gentleman and blessing.
Debby Pember, Cromwell, CT

Debby Pember - November 29, 2020 at 07:01 AM

BJ

*My condolences to the McGowan family.
George and I worked together at UConn during the later stages of his career. A wonderful man with a caring heart for his patients. Interacted with all with respect. I would run into him at the Buena Vista putting green or at Fern park during his retirement. Never heard any complaints about his aches and pains when asked how he was. Lived a content fulfilled life.
May god rest his soul in peace.
Om Shanti.
Bipin Jagjivan MD*

Bipin Jagjivan - November 29, 2020 at 10:45 AM

DA

*Dr. McGowan performed surgery on my son when he was a year old and was so kind and understanding of my stress. He ensured that my son had the best care and attention from the nursing staff and I will never forget his professionalism and kind words to help us through the surgery. I extend my sympathy to his family and friends. God bless him.
Deborah Akers*

Deborah Akers - November 29, 2020 at 11:23 AM

MB

Dear McGowans,

I am sorry to hear of your Dads passing. Your family was part of a great Clifton Ave neighborhood and your Dad was truly a special person. It was always a pleasure to see him out walking or hitting golf balls at Fern park and would often stop with books for my boys . Remember the ski jump on Keeney ? Great memories! Your families are in our thoughts and prayers. Wishing you peace and comfort in these difficult times.

Michael and Dorothy Burnett

Michael Burnett - November 29, 2020 at 12:59 PM

JS

To the McGowan Family,

I am sorry to learn of the passing of Dr. George McGowan. He was a gentleman and a credit to his profession. While practicing pediatrics for 40 years, Dr. McGowan consulted on many of my patients. I clearly remember the first time I met Dr. McGowan. I was a first year pediatric resident in training in what was then the pediatric outpatient clinic at Hartford Hospital. A young boy with abdominal pain was brought into the clinic by his mother. The mother was concerned and anxious and her son was apprehensive. Dr. McGowan was called in as a consultant to examine the child and help determine the cause of his abdominal discomfort. As soon as Dr. McGowan walked into the room, his gentle and caring demeanor eased the mother's anxiety. I will always remember the way he spoke with the young boy while he was gently, but thoroughly, examining him. In that moment he taught me the importance of a caring bedside manner and the gentle application of clinical skills. It is something I hope I carried with me during my practice of pediatrics.

Please accept my sincere condolences. Take comfort in knowing that Dr. McGowan touched many lives as a person and a physician.

John Siraco

John Siraco - November 29, 2020 at 02:55 PM

MS

To the McGowan Family,

Sincere condolences for your loss. I have nothing but good memories of working with Dr. McGowan at HH and CCMC. He was very kind and gentle to his little patients. One day I was in the Emergency Department with my daughter who suffered a nasty toe injury. He noticed me there and kindly offered to stitch her up. I was very happy to have someone familiar treat her.

Mary Beth Spillane, RN

Mary Beth Spillane - November 30, 2020 at 06:26 PM

MJ

To the McGowan Family,

I was sorry to hear about the death of Dr. McGowan. I had the privilege of working with him at HH NICU. He was such a caring individual and touched so many lives. He always put both families and staff at ease. I will always remember his whistling down the hallway and even in the OR. If surgery was long he would have lollipops in the OR. He will truly be missed by many. Please accept my condolences on his death and your loss.

Margaret Jelly

Margaret Parutka Jelly - December 02, 2020 at 10:10 AM

BC

To The McGowan Family

I have nothing but wonderful memories of Dr. McGowan. I worked for twenty five years in pediatrics at HH. He was always soft spoken, kind and caring, just what any child undergoing surgery needed, and an excellent surgeon. He also worked well with the medical staff. I am so very sorry for your loss!

Barbara Sullivan CGRN - February 02, 2021 at 09:24 PM