



## John Kelley Springer

May 11, 1931 - February 4, 2010

John Kelley Springer, 78, beloved husband of Jane Parsons Springer, died February 4, 2010, at Hartford Hospital from infectious complications of a brain tumor. Born in Salem, Ohio, on May 11, 1931, son of the late Wilbur J. and Nellie Kelley Springer, he graduated from Bay Village High School in Ohio, Dartmouth College in Hanover NH, Class of 1953 and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI where he received his masters in Hospital Administration in 1959. While at Dartmouth he majored in sociology, was a member of the Beta Theta Pi National Fraternity, and was an officer of the Sphinx Senior Honorary Society. Following graduation from Dartmouth he joined the United State Marine Corp where he spent 5 years on active duty as a jet and helicopter pilot. Following active duty he served in the Marine Corp Reserve retiring at the rank of Colonel. John served Dartmouth's renowned Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital as Hospital Administrator from 1960-1971 in Hanover, NH. In 1971, Mr. Springer joined Hartford Hospital where he served as president and CEO for 20 years. He was instrumental in initiating the trauma and emergency program as well as the LIFE STAR Air Medical Program in 1985. The John Kelley Springer Heliport at Hartford Hospital was dedicated on October 25, 1990. Following his retirement from Hartford Hospital he developed the Connecticut Health System incorporating Newington Children's and Meriden Wallingford with Hartford Hospital and developed MedSpan, a provider sponsored HMO. In 2003 he and his wife Jane moved to Sunapee, NH. This move provided many opportunities for

family gatherings and a reconnection to Dartmouth College. In retirement he served as President of his class at Dartmouth, and was member of the Alumni Council. His interests in Health Care lead him to serve on numerous boards including the Board of Directors at New London Hospital, the Rockefeller Center Board of Visitors, the American Hospital Association as PAC Chairman, as well as President of the New England Hospital Assembly, and the Travelers Insurance Board for 25 years. Included among his many awards were The Award of Honor from the American Hospital Association, and the Jewish National Fund Tree of Life Award. In his community he served the church as an active member on boards and committees. He is survived by Jane Springer of Washington Pa, his loving wife of 53 years; daughters, Kelley Braun of Marblehead MA., Dana Poirier of Downingtown PA, Susan Springer of West Hartford CT and Nellie Kraus of Sewickley PA; brother Wilbur J. Springer Jr of Seattle Washington, sister Elizabeth Wise of Springerville Arizona; and 10 grandchildren who affectionately refer to him as "Pa". He will always be remembered for his humor, and his unique ability to genuinely make everyone feel important and loved. As a symbol of the respect and devotion that the Hartford Hospital has for John Kelley Springer, former President and CEO, it has been ordered that the hospital flag be flown at half staff. "Semper Fi". Funeral services will be Monday February 8th at The First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main St. West Hartford, at 2:00pm. A wake will be held on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the LIFE STAR Educational Fund c/o Hartford Hospital, 80 Seymour St, Hartford, CT 06102. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Jane,

*Gary and i want to send you hugs and our thoughts and prayers as you go through ths part of lifes journey.*

*John was an inspiration and mentor to me when I joined the Hartford Hospital team in 1992. You were both so warm and wonderful as you helped me integrate into the Hartford Hospital culture and do so with my long distance marriage. Both of you made Gary feel so welcome when he was able to come to Ct. and we will never forget that hospitality.*

*John helped me learn all the Ct. healthcare executives and the AHA leaders. He gave a great deal to our profession and mentored many new, young healthcare executives. He helped many patients in his career and he knew why HH existed. I am sure HH helped him and you during this time of illness.*

*Hugs and love*

*Rhonda Anderson##imported-begin##Rhonda Anderson##imported-end##*

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March 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Springer Family,

*So sorry for your loss. Mr. Springer was such an amazing man. May all your wonderful memories help you through this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Irene and Dan and family##imported-begin##Irene and Dan Gosselin##imported-end##*

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February 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Susie,  
Whenever you spoke of your father it was quite evident that you loved and respected him very much. Your father's recent health status and now death must be so difficult for you and your family. I wish you peace and the strength you will need to heal.  
With deepest sympathy to you and your family,  
Your former co-worker on N9 at HH,  
Chris##imported-begin##Chris Jakymiw##imported-end##

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February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Nellie and all your family,  
We send you our prayers and love to you during this sad and reflective time. Your dad always arrived in Sewickley with a grandpa wide smile that made you think this guy is something special.  
Thinking of you today, wishing we could be there.##imported-begin##Sarah and Ed Heres##imported-end##

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Springer, a great man. He followed in the footsteps of another great man, Dr. Hamilton, and continued to keep the culture and family of HH strong.  
As a young Head Nurse,working Christmas day, Mr. Springer and his lovely daughters plaid skirtsappeared. I am sure they walked up the five flights of stairs.  
He made a difference in so many ways.  
I am deeply sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Andrea Nardi##imported-end##

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always have the warmest of memories and the highest regard for John as a neighbor and friend. We have had the privilege of seeing John truly living life with his whole clan so many times- and those memories of him with Jane, his daughters, sons-in-law and all those grandkids will warm our hearts for many years to come. We miss you John, and love you Jane and all the Springers.##imported-begin##John, Juliet, Alexander Tariot & Robin Shield##imported-end##

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Very Sorry for Your Loss. John was one of my favorite students in the class of 1949.  
R. Kitzerow BHS Faculty 1946-78##imported-begin##Robert Kltzerow##imported-end##

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Springer was very kind and caring. He always parked in the regular employee garage and would walk out with you and say good morning ask how things were going in your department. I have always admired him, because he spoke to everyone, he made you feel as if you were the most important person in the world and valued your opinion, no matter if you were the janitor or the head neuro surgery. Mr. Springer probably spoke to every employee at the hospital. Everyone knew him and spoke very highly of him. I wish I had written this letter to him before he passed!##imported-begin##M.BROWN##imported-end##

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a wonderful man Mr. Springer was, and what fond memories he has left us all with! I worked with him at MedSpan and he truly was an amazing man - intelligent and highly respected, of course... always had a sense of humor, always encouraging and motivational, and always made everyone feel that they made a difference in the world. He certainly did! I was so saddened when I heard the news. My sympathy goes out to his family and all those who were lucky enough to know him.##imported-begin##Rose Angelone##imported-end##*

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Jane,  
We extend our deepest condolences to you and all your dear ones upon John's passing. We understand the profound loss to you, your family and to all who were truly privileged to have known him. We regret not being in West Hartford to personally express our sympathy but our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Warmly,  
Arlene and Dan Ndiditz##imported-begin##Arlene & Dan Neiditz##imported-end##*

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February 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Springer Family,

*When I heard of Mr. Springer's death, I felt a great loss. We will never forget the wonderful times Carolyn and I shared with your family during our ten years in Connecticut. I had the distinct privilege of working with Mr. Springer and he always provided an example to follow both professionally and in all personal endeavors. Please know that Carolyn and I hold you in our hearts and prayers at this difficult time. May God bless and keep you.*

*Norman and Carolyn Curtis##imported-begin##Norman and Carolyn Curtis##imported-end##*

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Springer Family,

*I first met John as a young college student. I had just introduced my brother to his sister. I was very impressed with the kindness and consideration that he showed. I extend heartfelt sympathy to all the family. You are in my thoughts and my prayers, as you have been through these long weeks.*

*Elna Hanly##imported-begin##Elna and Jim Hanly##imported-end##*

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jane,  
So very sorry-I grieve deeply now for John.-A man's man in all respects I guarantee, Jane, that all Marines that touched his life, concur to John's everlasting, impeccable character-- a most respectful warrior.  
Peace now  
Love,  
Colonel Macado###imported-begin###Bob McCarthy###imported-end###

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane, Dana, Kelley, Susan and Nellie,  
  
I am so very saddened by the news of John's passing. He was a wonderful man and we Hamiltons, loved him dearly. John did so much for HH and the community. And he wore a bow tie well.  
  
Best love to you all,  
Jeanne###imported-begin###Jeanne Hamilton###imported-end###

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane,  
May the many treasured memories and years you spent with John bring comfort during this time of loss.  
With sympathy and love,  
Bill & Sonja  
New London, NH###imported-begin###Bill & Sonja  
Hannah###imported-end###

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Springer family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers and good thoughts are with you all.  
Love,  
Jill###imported-begin##Jill Irvine###imported-end##

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February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Springer Family,  
I have been associated with Hartford Hospital for over forty-five years, starting as a volunteer, attending Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, and remain there as an RN of 38 years. I fondly remember Mr Springer, always visible, talking with staff and lending a helping hand during difficult days. I always teased him about his middle name and how he should "spell it the right way" ! I still have a picture of him in my mind, with his signature bow tie, appearing at the door of my hospital room the day after I had surgery many years ago. You just don't forget a person like him. I have missed him greatly since he left, and will always remember his contributions to Hartford Hospital and his personal relationship with the staff during his years as administrator. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Nancy Kelly, RN, Case Coordinator at Hartford Hospital.###imported-begin##Nancy Kelly###imported-end##

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February 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ John was exuberant each time we met at Palmetto. Though we did not know each other well, I will miss his friendly grin whenever we saw one another. To Jane, I know the love of family surrounds you. Please know that my prayers are with you.###imported-begin##Joan M. Collins###imported-end##

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February 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *As a member of John's regular golf group at Lake Sunapee Country Club, I will miss his company and his competitive spirit on the golf course. I never heard anyone else call him "Spring", but that was how he addressed himself, as in "Oh c'mon, Spring" when he scolded himself for missing a short putt. I can hear it now.*

*My heart goes out to Jane and John's entire family. You are all in our prayers.##imported-begin##Dick Little##imported-end##*

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February 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I've never had the pleasure of meeting other members of the Springer family but wanted to express my deepest sympathy on the passing of, in my opinion, a truly great man, and a remarkable example of inspiring leadership tempered by great humility.*

*My father, John H. Stewart, worked for Hartford hospital for 44 years, during the last six of which he was privileged to serve with John Springer. He held him in the absolute highest regard, and upon his retirement my Dad and our family was shown great respect, and in the years that followed, given tremendous support by Mr. Springer.*

*At this time of sadness, there are many souls in heaven, including my Mom and Dad, who will celebrate John Springer's arrival.##imported-begin##Arthur H Stewart##imported-end##*

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February 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Springer Family,  
I used to work with Mr. Springer back in 1973, as Assistant Director of Nursing. What a great man. Several years later he told me of an opening as  
Director of Nnursing with his friend Ed. Kenny at Manchester Hospital where I became director for many years.  
This was the kind of person he was, always looking out for his staff and the patients.  
He will truly be missed by all.  
Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Sandra Muller,R.N.##imported-end##*

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February 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *DEAR SPRINGER FAMILY-I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH SUSIE FOR THE PAST 1 1/2 YEARS. HER COMPASSION AND DEDICATION AS A NURSE IS REMARKABLE. I AM SURE SUSIE'S STRENGTH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HER DAD AND WONDERFUL FAMILY. SUSIE AND BEEN SO PROUD OF HOW HER FAMILY HAS COME TOGETHER DURING THIS MOST DIFFICULT TIME. TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT HIS SPIRIT WILL REMAIN ALIVE IN THE MANY HEARTS THAT HIS LIFE HAS TOUCHED.##imported-begin##MONICA ORIS##imported-end##*

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February 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM