



Dr. Jean Arthur Creek

May 8, 1928 - November 16, 2021

Jean Arthur Creek died on Nov. 16, 2021 at his home in Bloomington. He was 93.

Born on May 8, 1928 in Evansville, Indiana, he was a son of Eunice (Schwitz) Creek and Arthur Creek, both of whom were school teachers. Jean absolutely believed that Evansville was a great place to grow up. As a boy, he spent summers helping out on his grandfather's farm in nearby Posey County, where he remembered spending countless hours turning watermelon vines. As he grew older, he developed a keen interest in science and medicine, which became his focus as a student at Bosse High School. A talented trumpet player, Jean played big band jazz trumpet, first with a classmate's band - Jerry Goldberg and the Campus Playboys, and later with the Hutch Hutchinson Orchestra, as Evansville became a shipbuilding center during World War II. The war sparked Jean's strong interest in history and politics. He and his brother, Billy, covered the walls of their bedroom with maps of Europe, and used push pins to track the progress of Allied troops, until VE Day on May 8, 1945, Jean's 17th birthday.

He also graduated from Bosse in 1945, and left Evansville for Bloomington that fall to pursue a degree in Anatomy and Physiology at Indiana University, which he earned in 1949. He went on to graduate from the IU School of Medicine in 1952.

He married Donna (Brewer) Creek in April 1952, and entered the U.S. Army's Medical Corps in 1953. He was assigned to the American Hospital in Paris,

the location of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, (SHAPE) in the post-war years.

Jean and Donna settled Bloomington in 1955, where he worked at the IU Student Health Center, and served as the team physician for the football and basketball teams during 1955-56.

He opened a private practice as a general practitioner, which then included obstetrics - he delivered over 1,500 babies – and administered anesthesia and assisted during surgery. From 1968 to 1970, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis, a Fellowship in Cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and a Fellowship in Rheumatology at Hammersmith Hospital, London.

In 1970, he was a founding member of Internal Medicine Associates, where he practiced until his retirement in 2008. He was Board Certified in Internal Medicine in 1970 and chose to be recertified two additional times. He became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1988, and received the College's Laureate Award in 1996.

A life-long learner who never passed up an opportunity to teach, Jean was a Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Medical Science Program at IU Bloomington for 37 years. He was also a member of the School of Medicine's Admissions Committee for 25 years, and felt it was a privilege to serve as the personal physician to four former IU Presidents and their families.

At Bloomington Hospital, he was Chief of Medicine in 1965, Chief of Staff in 1966, and director of Medical Education from 1974 to 2000. He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Gov. Evan Bayh in 1997, awarded the American Heart Association Cor Vitae Award in 2008, the IU Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion, and the Distinguished Alumnae and J.O Richey Award from the IU School of Medicine.

He often said that he was fortunate to have practiced medicine during the time that he did and to witness the dramatic changes and improvements in health care during his lifetime. He was deeply appreciative of the knowledge and integrity of his colleagues, the loyalty of his patients and the professionalism

and commitment of his staff.

In 2008, Jean married Doris Shoultz-Creek and they were able to enjoy travel and time with their shared family during his retirement

Jean was intensely intellectually curious, which was reflected in his many interests and hobbies. A voracious reader and an avid traveler, he visited over fifty countries and enjoyed experiencing new cultures with his family. He was most often found behind a camera lens, capturing images he would later hang on his office walls to share with others. He created beautiful furniture for family and friends in his wood shop, and regularly serenaded both neighbors and family with classical works and popular songs from his dance band days.

He deeply loved the outdoors, whether walking in the woods or fishing, and recognized that the natural world provided opportunities to bring people together. He introduced his children, grandchildren, countless friends, and colleagues to the magnificent Canadian wilderness, with more than 50 special adventure trips to Quetico Provincial Park in southern Ontario.

When Jean was no longer physically able to canoe and fish in Canada, he established an outdoor scholarship fund to take members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington to discover and enjoy the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota. His commitment to supporting education opportunities included support for the Wonderlab Museum of Science, five Scholarships at the IU School of Medicine, and three at the IU Jacobs School of Music.

Jean was most proud of his family, friends, and community. He nurtured and supported them all with much love, kindness, wisdom and time. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Billy Creek, and his first wife, Donna, in 2007. He is survived by his second wife, Doris Shoultz-Creek; son, Jeffrey Creek of Bloomington; daughters, Julie Creek (Ben Smith) of Fort Wayne, and Teresa Creek (John Brumleve) of Bloomington; six grandchildren, Richard Creek (Aileen Driscoll), of Bloomington; Connor Creek of Salem, OR; Will Brumleve of St. Paul, MN, Laura Brumleve, of Bloomington; and Johanna Smith and Grant Smith, both of Fort Wayne; and nieces, Glenda Schaeffer, of

Vincennes, and Debbie Kixmiller (Jeff), of West Terre Haute.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Jean's life at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408. Masks are required. The service will be livestreamed at: <https://www.uubloomington.org/live-stream>.

Memorial contributions can be made to: the Bloomington Boys and Girls Clubs Outdoor Club or WonderLab.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 South Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencare.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church
2120 N. Fee Ln
Bloomington,, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

LS

“ When my family moved to Bloomington my Mother took me to Dr Creek when I became ill. He became my family Dr. When I developed Rheumatic Fever he diagnosed me and made arrangements for my home care. He came weekly for a while gave pcn injections, drew blood and reported my progress. When I was a student nurse at IU He was at the medical center gaining a specialty and occasionally I would see him on campus or in Hospital. I just saw this obituary May 2022 and I wish to give condolences to his son Jeff Creek. Lanore Scamihorn Bland

lanore scamihorn - May 25, 2022 at 12:08 PM

GM

“ Dr. Creek delivered my youngest son in 1958 and was my family Dr. until he retired. My late husband, John was also an M.D. and we had many good times with Donna and later Doris. We both held Dr. Creek with much respect and he contributed so much to Medicine and to IU with his knowledge and expertise. Bloomington is a better community because of him and I send my sympathy to his family. Gerry Miller

Gerry Miller - May 03, 2022 at 10:41 AM

HI

“ My husband and I arrived in Bloomington in September of 1970. We were so lucky to hear about Dr. Creek and the fact that he had just returned to Bloomington after doing a residency in Internal Medicine. We chose him as our doctor and we remained with the practice as long as possible. He was a delightful person and an outstanding physician! We always felt fortunate to experience his type of medical care. He is missed.

Helen and Gary Ingersoll

Helen Ingersoll - May 01, 2022 at 10:19 AM

JB

“ I was so sorry of the passing of Dr. Creek, as a ;young LPN he was quite a challenge at times and other times you couldnt ask for anyone nicer to work along side with in the medical field. He too was my FP Dr. who Dx my first DVT, my oldest daughter was only 16 months old, and to be away from her in the Bloomington Hospital was so so hard, but he really saved my life by diagnosing that issue. I learned so much from him when he made rounds, and as I grew older and moved away from Blgton, I often wondered how he was doing. Weve lost too many great physicians down home, and he is one of them. Many prayers, and condolence to his family., Gods blessings. Jan Morrison Bakalyar Lakefield, Mn

jan Bakalyar - November 25, 2021 at 10:55 PM

KJ

“ I have 40 years working as a nurse and I can truly say Dr.Creek was a genuinely kind doctor that I had the pleasure knowing. When I was a new grad nurse, I was assisting him with a procedure and was handed a glass syringe and was told to mix the powdered med in the syringe. I did not know that glass syringe have to be held in place. It was a chemotherapy drug it went all over the bed and floor and us!!! He calmly said to run to the pharmacy and get it replaced. He never reacted more than that to me. To make matters worse the patient was a relative. He was so kind and empathic.

Karen Jessee - November 21, 2021 at 06:59 PM

GM

“ My late husband, John Miller and I had great respect for Dr. Jean Creek. He delivered my third child, a boy -9 lbs. He was a very bright, excellent Dr. and contributed many of his talents with his knowledge and gifts to Indiana University and to the Bloomington community. We treasured his friendship through the years. Since my husband's death, I regret that we have lost touch but I still have fond memories of our times together . I send my sympathy and heartfelt prayers to his family.

From Gerry Miller

Gerry Miller - November 21, 2021 at 03:27 PM

DD

“ I am so sorry of the passing of such a Great Patriarch of the Family and Leader of medicine. I worked with Dr. Creek and his son Jeff in a Physicians office and Hospital setting and have the up most RESPECT for both. Dr. Jean Creek you have been a Great leader and mentor as well as a family man and your leadership will always be one the we are grateful for. All of you are on my mind and in my heart at this time. Many thoughts and prayers. Debbie Deckard



Debbie Deckard - November 21, 2021 at 08:40 AM

MH

“ A true inspiration to all. He will be greatly missed. Mary Huffman

mary Huffman - November 20, 2021 at 09:59 AM

SW

“ Teresa,
I am so sorry to hear about your dad. I had the opportunity to have a conversation with him at one of the celebrations for the Hospice House and we talked like we had known each other for years when it had only been a few minutes. He was so proud of his family and shared a few stories. Please know you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Susan Webster - November 19, 2021 at 12:55 PM

JM

“ I first met Jean about 1970 when he returned to the Indiana University Medical Center after 13 years of private practice in Bloomington to begin an Internal Medicine Residency. We were residents together for several years after which he returned to Bloomington as a fully trained internist. I was on the Indiana University School of Medicine faculty in Indianapolis from 1976 until late 1999 at which time Jean and his group at Internal Medicine Associates recruited me to join their practice in interventional Cardiology. We were close friends thereafter. I nominated him for the Monroe County Hall of Fame for his foresightedness and thoughtful abilities to lead professionals toward a higher level of practice. He was responsible for transforming Bloomington's medical practice model from a small town general practice mode into a multi-specialty, advanced practice mode. He was an extremely friendly and compassionate physician who cared for many patients including many high profile patients. I nominated him and he was elected into Alpha Omega Alpha honorary medical society as an documentation of his excellence as an notable alumnus of the Indiana University School of Medicine. I and all his former colleagues will miss Jean as a very prominent physician in Bloomington and Monroe County.

James V. Faris, MD

James V. Faris, MD - November 19, 2021 at 11:13 AM

DB

“ It was my honor to be his patient for many years and to lead the group for 12 years. He was always such a gentleman and great physician. The entire healthcare community in Bloomington and Monroe County was fortunate to have had him to provide care to so many for many years. He always enjoyed sharing pictures to the staff about his world wide travels. The office buildings where he worked were always adorned with beautiful photos of sites he had visited. My sympathies to his family. Thanks for sharing him with all of us.

Dave Burnworth - November 19, 2021 at 09:30 AM

YM

“ Your Friends at the WonderLab Museum purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Jean Arthur Creek.



Your Friends at the WonderLab Museum - November 18, 2021 at 02:48 PM

BC

“ Jeff, Bill and I are so sorry to hear about your Dad. We always enjoyed working with him. Praying for you and the Family. He was a good man and will be missed.

Bill & Nancy Cowden - November 18, 2021 at 02:33 PM

SH

“ I had the pleasure of working at IMA with Dr. Creek a while back. He was always the kindest and friendliest Dr. To the staff. Later while in private duty with one of his patients. He would come to his home to check on him and have a visit. I was surprised and touched by that. It just showed how much he cared.. It is wonderful to read of his generosity to our community. My prayers to your family.

Sherri - November 18, 2021 at 04:02 AM