

Dr. Mark Alexander Dayton

February 1, 1955 - August 11, 2025

Life is made up of meetings and partings. That is the way of it.

On Monday, August 11th, 2025, the world lost a brilliant mind, and an extraordinary physician. Dr. Mark Dayton's family mourns for a loving husband and father, parted too soon.

An avid cyclist, Mark found joy in the saddle; whether racing the Little 500 (and winning 3 out of 4), climbing a far away mountain, or slowing down to photograph the flowers, Mark and his bike could never be parted for long.

Mark was known for his quick wit, his empathy, and his generosity for those around him. These drove him to become a physician and to dedicate his spare time to Rotary International and its mission for healthcare and literacy.

Obtaining both a Medical degree and a PhD from Indiana University, Mark pursued medicine and research throughout his career. It was there, while finishing his PhD at IU, that Mark met his greatest love, Jean Dickinson.

In 1982, Mark and Jean were married. Over the next 43 years, they built a life together overflowing with generosity, love, and companionship. Together they raised 3 sons: James (Katie) Dayton, Alexander (Meghan) Dayton, and Jacob Dayton. With a shared wanderlust, they traveled the corners of the world,

creating countless cherished memories and new friends along the way.

Mark's chosen family was never limited by something so trivial as blood. The world is filled with those he called friend, brother, sister, son, and daughter.

Lives touched, lives changed, and lives saved. A world made better for his having been in it.

Donations can be made to:

Bloomington North Rotary Club
In honor of Mark Dayton
P.O. Box 7714
Bloomington, IN 47407

Hoosiers Outrun Cancer
<https://hoosiersoutruncancer.org/>
Team: The Handlebars (Dr Mark Dayton)

Tribute Wall

RD

“ *He was Doctor. He was a great doctor and a great man and doctor*

Roscoe Dick - April 21 at 08:34 PM

JT

“ *Dear Jean and family, I am very saddened to learn today about Mark's passing. We were in Med School thru Hem/Onc Fellowship together at IU. He and I also shared some patients in our professional lives, when I had a patient from the Bloomington area who needed local help and vice versa if he needed a Hem/Onc in Indy for his. It is great to read the tributes and see that Mark was true to himself over the years, and the smile and mustache and dedication/passion didn't change. <3 Prayers for you and your family, Jean Miller Thompson*

Jean Miller Thompson - March 08 at 03:40 PM

EG

“ *Mark Dayton was the kind of doctor that a patient was fortunate to have. For the 14 years that I lived in Bloomington, he was my hematologist. He was caring, knowledgeable, open to questions, personable and calm. His passing is a substantial loss to the community. My condolences to your family.*

Ellen Goodman

Ellen Goodman - September 06, 2025 at 11:43 AM

DM

“ Dr. Dayton was my Oncologist until I relocated to California last year. Dr. Dayton was one of the most caring and supportive physicians I’ve ever met. He never gave up on me when something would stop working. He always found something that would pick up where the previous treatment left off. He also thought outside of the box. When my monthly bloodwork showed symptoms of kidney problems, he immediately made sure that I was seen by a neurologist. On one occasion I was hospitalized for an unrelated matter and Dr. Dayton made a point of stopping by my room and checking in on me. He always reminded me of the doctor’s way back when who would make house calls and went the extra mile. He will be greatly missed and my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

David Moffitt - September 01, 2025 at 05:26 PM

TW

“ Tricia Wells lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton



Tricia Wells - August 27, 2025 at 10:09 AM

JP

“ Judy Poling lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton



Judy Poling - August 25, 2025 at 06:47 PM

JS

“ *Huge loss for the Bloomington community. Dr. Dayton was a great person that helped many people. He was also great to his family and friends. Sending love to all those impacted by Dr. Dayton, especially his family and close friends.* ”

Joe Schroeder - August 22, 2025 at 11:17 PM

JR

“ *J Riley lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton* ”



J Riley - August 22, 2025 at 11:22 AM

LF

“ *Linda Fowler lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton* ”



Linda Fowler - August 20, 2025 at 09:17 PM

GH

“ *Over a decade ago, Dr Dayton was my husband's doctor. He was a knowledgeable, caring, and compassionate doctor. He is a great loss to both the medical community and local community. My condolences to his family and friends for their loss.* ”

Gayle Higgins - August 19, 2025 at 02:34 PM

DL

“ Mark was a remarkable guy. I enjoyed being a fellow classmate through our school years. He had a contributing nature and an intelligence that served many.



Donna Lobdell-Monroe - August 19, 2025 at 11:46 AM

SF

“ Dr Dayton took care of my uncle and my father-in-law. They both really liked him and felt he was a very good doctor. Other doctors gave no hope but he did not give up on them and because of that he gave them several more years of life. Thank you Dr Dayton for everything you did for us. My family and myself would like to express our condolences to the family for their loss.

Shelley Fowler - August 19, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Mark Alexander Dayton.



August 19, 2025 at 10:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Mark Alexander Dayton.

August 19, 2025 at 10:41 AM

CS

“ I have been a patient of Dr. Mark Dayton's for about 20 years, since he moved to Bloomington. He is so knowledgeable and compassionate. He always took the time to answer all of my questions and to explain things in a way that I could understand. When I last visited with him on July 31 he even explained to me about my husband's recent rare diagnosis that was not even hematology or oncology related. He excitedly told me about two wonderful upcoming events, the marriage of his youngest son and an extended cruise he was planning to go on with his wife. He was so happy for his son and the wonderful woman who was to become his daughter-in-law. Even though I do not know Dr. Dayton's wife and sons, I pray that they can be blessed with comfort and peace at this challenging time. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Carolyn Sweeny - August 18, 2025 at 04:58 PM

CT

“ Jean, it was with great sadness that I learned of Mark's sudden passing. Although I haven't seen you two in 45 years, my thoughts went immediately to you, and as I learned, your three sons. We all did research together in Dr. Wightman's chemistry lab at IU. I really looked up to both of you. I always knew Mark would do great things; it looks like he did. My heart goes out to you, your sons, and the rest of your family.

CHARLES R TROYER - August 17, 2025 at 09:44 AM

AA

“ I feel truly honored to have known Dr. Dayton. His legacy will continue to shine in the lives he touched. My heartfelt condolences

Angie Alvarez - August 17, 2025 at 09:33 AM

JB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss of Mark. Many of us knew he was brilliant even in our early teen years hanging out and walking to Dairy Queen. Besides studies, he was a gifted violist. And we will always remember his sandals with socks! He left this world a much better place doing what he loved. My sympathy to you all.
Jenny Smith Burns

Jenny Smith Burns - August 17, 2025 at 12:28 AM

SP

“ Dr. Dayton has been my mom's oncologist since June 1st of 2017. He has always been very upfront and trustworthy with us! This has left a hole in our life. I have some amazing memories with him but I will keep that between us. We are praying for his wife, kids, family and friends. We will miss him more than anything.

Love Shannon and Barbara

Shannon Patton - August 16, 2025 at 11:33 PM

AK

“ My sincere condolences for your loss! The world truly lost a sweet man.



April Kumar - August 16, 2025 at 08:36 PM

LG

“ *Linda G Goodman lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton*



Linda G Goodman - August 16, 2025 at 07:18 AM

AC

“ *My most sincere condolences to the family. Dr Dayton treated my beloved husband for 6 1/2 years until he passed in 2024. The compassion and care he received will never be forgotten. Dr Dayton never rushed thru our appointments always listening and explaining and often laughing with us as my husband loved to laugh. He has left a legacy that few can. I am just so sorry for your loss.*

Ann Cooper - August 15, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JT

“ *Dr. Dayton was my Mom's oncologist. He was so good to her, for her and for us as her daughter's! He always listened even when she would repeat herself. She loved his mustache and told him so! When Mom ended up in the hospital, Dr Dayton knew she was dying, he told us he was not going to upset her just to move her to hospice house as the hospital would want us to. He made it clear if they started pushing to move her, for us to call him. He cared, it was so obvious! Thank you Dr. Dayton for taking such good care of my Mama! Prayers for your family!*

Jackie Tate - August 15, 2025 at 07:22 PM

BT

“ *Saddened & Heartbroken*

Jean, we met you & Mark 35 years ago in Columbus, Ohio! What great memories we'll cherish always!!

Bobbie & Pierre Triozzi - August 15, 2025 at 04:46 PM

TL

“ *Dr Dayton was a fantastic doctor and he will be so missed! He truly cared about his patients.*



Tammy Love - August 15, 2025 at 03:33 PM

ER

“ *Dr Dayton will be greatly missed! He was my doctor and I can't imagine going through my bc without him. He helped me understand everything and got me through. He also helped me with some other health issues. I was supposed to see him later this month and was excited to catch up.*

He touched so many lives and I am blessed to be one of them.

My deepest condolences to his family.



Erin - August 15, 2025 at 11:40 AM

PC

“ From that iconic mustache and quick wit and sarcasm, Dr Dayton was a brilliant physician. He was loved by his patients and by those who worked with him. I pray that his soul is at peace.
To his family, you truly had a gem amongst you and I can only imagine the grief you have. May God hold all of you close and give you comfort for as long as you need it. I am truly sorry for your loss.
💔

Pat Calaski - August 15, 2025 at 09:44 AM

DS

“ I met Dr Dayton 19 years ago. He has treated me for the last 19 years. He always took the time to listen and help me understand things. I will never forget his kindness to me and my family. He was a great doctor. He cared about his patients and took the time with each one of us. For this I'm grateful to him. We need more doctors like him. Sending prayers to his family in this time of loss.

Deborah Smock - August 15, 2025 at 03:30 AM

BB

“ Jean & family/ Our deepest condolences, and Soo many prayers now & in the times ahead in such a horrible loss of one so brilliant!!' Please know we Will continue to pray for all of you- even though we hadn't seen
You Jean & Mark since visiting with you both at my brothers Home David & Dana But we never forgot just how much we so loved those few visits! Bruce & Jan Bakalyar Lakefield, Mn



Bruce & Jan Bakalyar - August 14, 2025 at 10:58 PM

LD

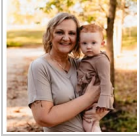
“ I have mourned Dr Dayton since we found out about his horrid death. It is hard to get out of one’s mind. He spent whatever time was needed anytime I had a checkup, I have no idea how he managed his days. He would give you sound advice about what he thought was the best measures to fight your cancer and was truthful with you if he thought you would survive it. After my last chemo they admitted me to the hospital and Dr Dayton came every single day and if he thought they were not doing what he said he would quietly storm to the nurses station and then back. That only happened one day. He always had his cowboy boots on. The more flair the better. He told me he had never had a vacation because he was either in school or working his entire life. He and his wife 2 years ago got to take a 6 month vacation on one of the riverboat cruises in Europe and he told all of us how wonderful it went. I believe It tempted him to retire, but he did not. So many people depended on him. It is hard to realize a loss of this magnitude by such a frivolous thoughtless act by some young man who now has his life either ruined or totally dedicated to helping people in the some meaningful way as dr Dayton did. I don’t belief anyone could measure up to do that task but I certainly hope he tries. Rest in paradise dr for you are loved and missed by thousands of people that crossed your path of life.

Linda D - August 14, 2025 at 10:49 PM

RH

“ Mark was and is my doctor with a rare disease and was my wife’s Doctor also with a rare disease. He was very knowledgeable, kind and never was in a rush or discuss to end my visit. I will miss him very much. Robert Holt

Robert Holt - August 14, 2025 at 08:59 PM



“ *Dr Dayton treated my dad, grandma, and saved my mom’s life. His compassion and his humor were ideal for his line of work. He made a huge impact on many lives and he will be sorely missed by the community.*

Holly Helms - August 14, 2025 at 08:51 PM

AL

“ *Jean and family- we are deeply saddened by the loss of Mark. We will never forget his support during our Rotary year when Tim was district governor. We loved that he took Tim on a ride he’ll never forget. Offering our sincerest condolences.*
Amy & Tim Lee

Amy Renee Lee - August 14, 2025 at 07:44 PM

AR

“ *Dr. Dayton was not only my doctor I considered him a good friend. He helped me through not only my medical issues but helped me to understand my Grandson’s diagnosis of childhood AML. I will forever be grateful for his care and friendship. This world needs more Dr Dayton’s. I will miss him immensely!*

Andy Roberts - August 14, 2025 at 07:21 PM

PB

“ *The most remarkable doctor and man. He was the last of a breed of doctors who truly care about his patients and treated them as individuals and people. He always connected to each and everyone. He will be missed by many and he was loved by many. May God be with his family during this time* 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



Pamela Bindenagel - August 14, 2025 at 06:53 PM

RC

“ *Rita collier lit a candle in memory of Mark Dayton*



Rita collier - August 14, 2025 at 06:31 PM