



Dr. Ralph Sloan Wilson

November 12, 1937 - February 23, 2021

Rye, NH - Ralph Sloan Wilson, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Rye, New Hampshire, was born in 1937, the fourth child of George E. Wilson and Lauree E. Doss of El Dorado, Arkansas. Dr. Wilson was an ophthalmic surgeon and educator specializing in retinology. He held degrees from Davidson College, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS College of Medicine), Harvard Medical School, and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. In 1958 he married Sarah M. Ross (deceased 2018) with whom he had three children. He loved playing piano and had lifelong passions for tennis and the outdoors. He enjoyed family adventures: bicycling, camping, hiking, water skiing, snow skiing and boating—and, in his later years, traveling the world. In 1970 he returned with his family from Boston to Little Rock as the first retina specialist in the state and joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as Director of Retina Services in the Department of Ophthalmology. In 1975 he established a private practice, Retinal Group Ltd., and continued teaching until 1996. In 1987 he married Ann S. Matsek (deceased 2015) and returned to New England in the late 1990s to live in New Hampshire, where he had previously served as LCDR at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. A recipient of awards for instructional excellence from UAMS and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Dr. Wilson introduced several new procedures and authored over 200 scholarly articles, exhibits, and films relating to his specialty. He was a diplomate and examiner for the American the Board of Ophthalmology and belonged to the honorary societies of Sigma Xi, Society of Heed Fellows, The Retina Society, Alpha Omega Alpha, and the American Ophthalmological Society. Furthering his commitment to education, Dr. Wilson also served for many years on the Board of Trustees of Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas. In late 2020 an adverse reaction to radiation treatment returned him to the hospital rooms, this time on the receiving side, but his humor remained till the end. He is survived by his wife Marcia D. Van Dyke of Rye, New Hampshire, his three children R. Sloan Wilson (and wife Elisabeth), William G. Wilson (and wife Lily), and S. Robert Wilson, and five stepchildren, John Matsek III, Nicholas A. Van Dyke, Robert P. Van Dyke, Kristen E. Liddell, and Peter F. Van Dyke. Private services will be held in the future. (photo: Greer Lile, 1980s).

Comments



“ The loss of my good, long-time friend and esteemed colleague has taken me a long time to accept. It was so unexpected. Sloan, William, and Robert, I share in your great loss. I have talked with Marcia and know how sad the situation is.
Dr. Gissur and Angela Petursson
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Gissur Petursson - May 30 at 07:17 PM



“ I just found out about the death of my friend Sloan Wilson. He was such a joy to be around. Sloan and my husband Bill Brown were in a tennis group, and we always had dinner afterwards. What fond memories I have of Sloan-he will be missed. Sending my condolences and love to his family.

Linda Brown - April 04 at 03:26 PM



“ A fine person and classmate! Sloan was a really great physician and friend!
Robert Kerr
Class of 1963

robert kerr - April 04 at 09:18 AM