



William M. Kaplan, M.D.

APR 25, 1947 - JAN 19, 2024



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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WILLIAM M. KAPLAN, M.D. passed away suddenly in Rehoboth Beach, DE on January 19, 2024.

Dr. Kaplan is survived by his loving wife, Deborah (Debi), his daughter Kathryn Kaplan of Havertown, PA (Jim Doohaluk) and grandson Alex Doohaluk. He was the son of the late Abe K. and Frieda L. Kaplan of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Kaplan had a 34-year career practicing Gastroenterology in the Bayhealth medical system in both Dover and Milford. He was the first practicing gastroenterologist in Kent and Sussex counties when he moved to Delaware in 1984. He retired in 2018 after a productive and successful practice serving countless patients over his extensive career. He also held within the Bayhealth system medical positions such as Chief of Staff, Medical Executive Committee member, Performance Improvement Committee member, to name a few.

Dr. Kaplan was a native of Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Germantown High School and subsequently from Penn State University in 1969 (Cum Laude). While at Penn State he joined the Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and made numerous lifelong friendships with the fraternity brothers. He received his Medical Degree in 1974 from Hahnemann Medical School where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society. He attended George Washington University and worked at the National Institutes of Health until he returned to Hahnemann Medical School and Hospital in 1976 for his Internal Medicine residency. He then completed his Gastroenterology fellowship in 1980 at Temple University Hospital where he became an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of GI Endoscopy until 1984 at which time he started his medical practice in Delaware. Dr. Kaplan was Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology.

Dr. Kaplan had many interests and hobbies, including golfing, travelling, driving his cherished cars, and boating and fishing in Rehoboth and Delaware Bays. Along with his wife he was proud of adopting and spoiling the many homeless dogs and cats he and Debi rescued. He was also truly



Obituary

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fortunate to have a close circle of devoted and trusted friends who he considered “adopted” brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews and to whom he gave his unconditional love. He was honored to be affectionately referred to as “Uncle Billy.”

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in his honor to First State Animal Center and SPCA, 32 Shelter Circle, Camden, DE 19934.

The burial will be private.



Tribute Wall

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EM

Eileen Murphy posted:

I just learned of Dr. Kaplan's passing. He passed through my dreams last night and so I googled his name this morning. I was a patient of his for about 25 years. Office visits often included doc talking about the many photos in his office. He cherished the family that came before him as well as his immediate family. He spoke lovingly of Debi and the work they did with animal rescue. May you rest in peace Doc and may your family take comfort in the many memories and kindnesses you leave behind. Eileen Murphy

March 1 at 5:36 AM

PL

Preston Luber posted:

Best looking and most popular guy I've known ever since we were 10 years old in Mt. Airy. You were (are) among the best of the best. Rest easy amigo. Condolences to your family and friends. See you on the other side brother!Preston

February 4 at 6:18 PM

NC

NancyElizabeth. Green(Cerner) February 6 at 10:29 PM

Thank you Preston. I am also from my. Airy(Rugby st.) Billy and I dated both in Germantown h.s. and a year at Penn state. Forever in my heart

ES

Edward Sidel posted:

I am deeply saddened by this awful news. To me Bill was a great doctor and a good friend. My heartfelt condolences go out to Debi and the entire family.Edward Sidel

February 1 at 8:17 AM



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Anita Weiss posted:

My sincere condolences to Debi & family on the passing of Billy. I knew Billy through my brother, Ron Kovler. I'll always have wonderful memories of Billy when he stayed in my home in CA, at different social events with Ron, Harbor Cove & Philly. He had a great sense of humor and was a great story teller. I considered him part of my "mishpuchah". Anita Weiss

February 1 at 5:18 AM



Nancy Elizabeth Green (Cerner) February 7 at 8:54 AM

Thank you.. I spoke to Billy every day til phone was cut off. We even spoke of revisiting Israel together after he found me on fb A wonderful man with a very unhappy ending. Ever hear of karma? Some need a hopefully sooner than later visit. May his memory be blessed. 🇮🇱❤️



Nadine Shavack lit a candle in honor of William.

I'm so sorry to hear that my buddy passed.. I am truly sorry for your loss Debi.. Bill was an amazing man who I came to adore.. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayer are with you. Nadine Shavack



January 30 at 11:12 AM



Stan And Kathy Schwarz posted:

Our condolences to Debi, Katie and family on Billy's passing. Our memories of the happy and fun times we spent together at Harbour Cove, our golfing vacation to Myrtle Beach and so many other wonderful days will always be with us. Billy was a kind, generous person. Can't remember hearing a mean or selfish word from him. So proud to have been a friend and buddy to Billy! Love, Stan and Kathy

January 29 at 10:56 AM



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ME

Mitch Edmondson posted:

My sincere condolences to Debi and the entire Kaplan family. I first met Bill when Loretta and I were being recruited to Milford Hospital in 1993. This began a long professional and personal relationship that experienced many twists and turns, as the medical community grew and changed. Bill was always adamant in fighting for the highest standards of care. During my turn as president of the medical staff, hardly a month went by when I did not hear from Bill concerning some issue, and his debating skills were truly extraordinary! Yet behind what some saw as stubbornness or ego was a genuine concern with doing what was right for our patients. Whether we agreed or disagreed, we always respected one another and saw each other as friends. He was a generous man, and behind his tough exterior was a kind soul who loved his family and his calling as a physician. He made a difference in the world and we will truly miss him.

January 29 at 7:29 AM

PC

Patricia Crabb January 31 at 5:43 PM

Sorry for your loss. It's a tough time for all. I understand. Hold on to your loved ones for comfort. 🙏 Pat Crabb

LT

Liz Taghavi posted:

Uncle Billy was a kind and generous soul who loved his family unconditionally. As his sister-in-law, I have many cherished memories. He not only welcomed, but encouraged our mother to come live with he and Debi. He made sure she had the best doctors and care, he took her to dinner when Debi had to work late at the shelter, he adored our mother. He treated me and my family as his blood family - hard to describe in words, but very felt and authentic. He opened his home and heart to us. He and Debi took our daughter every summer to Sommers Point and introduced her to mussels in garlic sauce, which she fondly remembers!!!! Bill was a force of nature and a gift to our family. You are missed, Uncle Billy. Ann

January 29 at 6:02 AM

BG

Bruce Gewertz posted:

Billy was a friend to all...man and beast...he was proud of his family and friends and was devoted to his profession and especially his patients. He leaves us too soon as he had more good to do and so many who loved him. Bruce Gewertz.

January 26 at 11:57 AM



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NG

NancyElizabeth Green posted:

My Dear, dear Billy. We were young kids at Penn State.. oh how much fun at phi sig delti! Over the years we spoke and reminisced. So much time had passed, but the memories were still strong. I heard the joy, speaking of your beautiful daughter Katie. I just regret we never saw one another in later life. Please say hello to my mom, who loved you when meeting in Philadelphia. Rest now.. you will be deeply missed.NancyElizabeth green(cerner)

January 26 at 9:25 AM

CF

Carla Faulkner posted:

My heart goes out to his wife and daughter. I worked with him frequently in the Endo unit at KGH. He was very knowledgeable. Very compassionate.....esp. towards his patients. Of course we had our run ins but, he was quick to apologize when he was in the wrong. And, accept apologies gracefully in return. You knew where you stood with him. I learned so much from that man, Doctor, friend. He will be missed by many. Hugs and prayers sent.

January 26 at 8:45 AM

JA

Jennifer April posted:

Where do I start? First is the sincere desire to provide your patients with the best quality of care. Secondly I loved how you challenged me professionally. Lastly you made a significant difference to everyone who met you. My condolences to your family. Rest easy my friend.

January 26 at 12:44 AM

MS

Marsha Schwartz posted:

Billy was a big help to me when I had gastric problems. He was a special person and he will be missed by many, especially my brother, Ron Kovler. Marsha Schwartz

January 25 at 12:45 PM

NC

Nancy Elizabeth Green(Cerner) January 27 at 3:35 PM

I knew ur brother Ron from phi sig delta. Please send my regards. Nancy cerner.



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CW

Cindi Whitehead posted:

I was sorry to hear of Dr. Kaplan's passing. Even though we didn't see eye to eye on many occasions, I enjoyed working for him. My deepest sympathies to Debi and Dr. Kaplan's daughter.

January 25 at 11:39 AM

LM

Lisa Moser posted:

My deepest condolences to Dr. Kaplan's family and friends. May your soul rest peacefully sir! I always enjoyed working with you and your appreciation for music made some of the hardest days tolerable. Your story of your trip to Jerusalem stays an inspiration for me. You will be missed, but not forgotten...

January 25 at 10:04 AM

DC

Debbie Craft lit a candle in honor of William.

Sincere condolences to Dr. Kaplan's family. It was a privilege to work with him. I will always remember the smile on his face and twinkle in his eyes when he would talk about his wife, daughter, and family. Will never forget the joy he got driving his corvette. I will always remember his dedication to his patients, healthcare team and other healthcare providers and organizations. He will be missed.



January 25 at 3:07 AM



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DN

Drake Nichols posted:

I honestly could say a lot of things about Dr Kaplan, I meant him in 1995 in the KGH Emergency Room and he was one of a kind. We had both causal and serious conversations in the department and I had a lot of respect for Dr Kaplan. For those who had the opportunity to work with him he made the task at hand smooth most of the time. He was honest and respectful to me , he had a way to get his point across in those early morning hours with the endo cart and the call team. I remember all those times before he'd leave , Drake let me go over these orders ! I honestly have always missed seeing him , his sense of humor, his bedside manner and the respect he showed me and my peers. May God rest your soul , and to the Kaplan family my good bless you all. Drake Nichols RN

January 24 at 1:04 PM

DK

Donna Kemp January 24 at 3:18 PM

I worked with Dr Kaplan and Dr Geissingner years ago. He was one of a kind. He always gave me a hard time about being a "redneck". He said I had a southern draw from Felton. I remember him calling Dr Geissingner saying a plane had hit the World Trade Center and we kinda laughed thinking it was a little Cessna plane and then he called back and told Dr Geissingner it was bad. Dr Geissingner said Bill says its bad we all need to go home and be with our families. He would smoke cigarettes right in the office and tell the patients " deal with it"... he was a great doctor to work with in the good ole days. Rest easy Dr Kaplan. Fondly your redneck nurse Donna K.

SH

Susan Hauer posted:

I'm so very sorry to hear of his passing. Dr Kaplan was dedicated to his patients. He made sure the patients got the care he felt was necessary. He was very knowledgeable in his specialty. I worked at Kent for several years and read through many orders with him. The family is in my prayers.

January 24 at 12:33 PM

MM

Monica Morris posted:

My deepest condolences to Dr Kaplans family. Worked with him for many years at the Kent campus. There was not a more dedicated Dr then him. He meant what he said and said what he meant. He reviewed many of his Dr orders with me before he left the floor and shared many bags of chips. He was one of a kind and knew his stuff inside and out. Rest easy Doc ur work here on earth is done.....Godspeed "Wild Bill" . You'll never be forgotten.

January 24 at 12:04 PM



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APR 25, 1947 - JAN 19, 2024

RP

Regina Pepper posted:

So sorry to hear of his passing. I was a patient for many years. Condolences to his family and friends.

January 24 at 11:54 AM

RV

Robert Varipapa, Md posted:

Condolences to Bill's family. He was an early colleague back in the old days at Kent General and Milford Memorial Hospital. He was always a pleasure to work with and was always a strong supporter of physicians. He focused on the risk of physician burnout before it became widely known as an issue and something that still has widespread existence today! Being an old Chevy Corvette owner, it was always a pleasure seeing him drive around in his antique vehicles. My thoughts are with Bill's family and friends.

January 24 at 9:39 AM

HB

Helen Ann Barlow posted:

Dr. William Kaplan in the middle eighties literally saved my life with a diagnosis of Celiac that was hardly discussed at that time in the medical profession. I was down to ninety some pounds....losing continuous weight...couldn't keep anything down food wise. Was being told by my doctor it was a woman thing...I barely had a pulse when taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was my angel of mercy and will be forever in my heart. He continued to fight for my well being until I moved to West Virginia. There will never be a more dedicated and caring doctor in my life.Go with God you dear sweet soul.

January 24 at 9:21 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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