



Clifford Richard Boeckman

July 30, 1928 - October 13, 2023

Clifford Richard Boeckman, 95, of Mooresville, NC, born on July 30, 1928, in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, passed away on October 13, 2023. He leaves behind a legacy filled with incredible achievements and a profound commitment to both the medical field, his family and friends.

Cliff's educational journey was marked by great accomplishments. He graduated from Eagle Butte High School, attended Northern State Teacher's College, Marquette University and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine. His thirst for knowledge and dedication to learning defined his life. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1960, dedicating his time to his country.

After his honorable service, Cliff embarked on an international adventure, relocating to Liverpool, England, with his wife, Lois, and their young daughter, Jan. It was there that he completed his surgical residency. In 1963, they returned to the United States, settling in Akron, where he began his medical career at Akron Children's Hospital.

During his tenure at the hospital, Cliff served as the Director of the Regional Burn Center and held the esteemed position of Chairman of the Department of Surgery. He was at the forefront of advancing various treatments and surgical procedures, most notably in expanding and enhancing the care of

prematurely born children. He was one of the pioneering few in the nation to surgically treat children born with Spina Bifida, and also played a pivotal role in developing one of the first methods for growing cultured skin to improve the treatment of burn victims. His groundbreaking research paved the way for the routine use of artificial skin today. Throughout his career, he generously shared his knowledge through numerous publications in national medical journals and as a Professor of Surgery at Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine. He touched the lives of countless children and adults in the Northeastern Ohio area through his dedicated work at Children's Hospital.

While he regarded his profession as "the best job in the world," Cliff also actively immersed himself in the simpler joys in life, such as hunting, fishing, gardening, and grilling. He and Lois enjoyed many years of life by the serene Lake Keowee in South Carolina. Cliff could often be found tending to his extensive garden and sharing the bountiful produce with his neighbors. He relished in hosting gatherings and was happiest when the whole family gathered around the table. He never failed to ensure there was an abundance of food, not only for his loved ones but also for the birds he would delight in enticing to his window. He took special pleasure in taking visitors out on his boat, spending hours towing his grandchildren on water skis behind it.

In recent years, Cliff resided in North Carolina with his daughter, Nancy, and her family. He continued to savor the beauty of his lake view, countless meals grilled to perfection, and the many visitors who made the time to see him and shared stories and indelible memories.

As a father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Cliff took pride in setting an example that hard work pays off, to give more than you receive, to always put things back where they belong, to be kind to others and to provide laughter when you can. His infectious laugh was the best medicine for himself and those around him. When asked about his well-being on any given day, his

response was always, "Excellent or Better," a reflection of how he lived his life.

Cliff is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lois. He will be deeply missed by the many who loved him, including his daughters Jan Hays (John), Ann Delevante (Robert), Nancy Rosato (Craig), and Sue Coopman (Jon), as well as his grandchildren Emma, Eric, Ben, Abby, Cole, Max, Ella, Evan, and Carly. He also leaves a host of extended family and friends who consider themselves fortunate to have had him in their lives.

Details regarding a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of donations, the family kindly requests your thoughts and prayers in memory of Cliff and the profound impact he had on the lives he touched.
Hooray for Clifford!

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Oh I wish i would've known where he was so i could've thanked him in person. When I was 10 years old in 1973 I was near death my father was also a physician and after years of my suffering with severe stomach issues and several hospitals unable to find the problem my dad heard of Dr. Boeckman at Akron children's hospital- one day I collapsed and my father drove me 3 hours to the ER and yelled for them to get Dr. Broeckman when he arrived he ordered a bunch of tests and told my family i needed emergency surgery. That night my siblings were brought in and I remember one of them saying, “dad said you might die tonight “ but I remember being so calm and feeling so at peace because after 10 years of suffering they finally found the problem and were going to fix me. Doctor Boeckman saved my life. I had a a gut that had to be reconstructed and lots of other things in my gut that needed fixed. My father said, it was an 8 hour surgery with several doctors and that he had wrote my case up in a case study at some point. I prayed for him over the years because He saved my life. I am 62 now and have 5 adult children and 3 grandchildren and have never had another stomach pain since. What a blessing he has been to this world. I thank God everyday for this brilliant man and that he was such a blessing in my lifetime 💕💕

jami Kightlinger - December 16, 2024 at 02:47 AM

CM

“ I was just informed of Dr. B's passing from my good friend Karen. Sad, Sad news. May this wonderful man Rest in Peace. I worked 10 years with Dr. B. I was the new kid, hired to be the front desk secretary and Scheduling Secretary. Dr. B knew I brought nothing to this position, having never worked in the Health Field. I admired him and taking care of him became one of my best jobs. He was a mentor, a friend and the very best surgeon. I have never forgotten him and never will. His wife Lois was the pillar of this all girl family. Such a lady.

Yes he loved his cars and would often let me drive them, especially when he received a new one. ❤️

To the Boeckman Family I send you my deepest condolences.

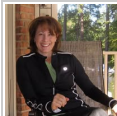
Cathe Minard

Cathe Minard - November 26, 2023 at 05:36 PM

MG

“ I recently learned of Dr. B’s passing and thought I’d share just one little story. I met Dr. B in the early 70s when I interviewed with him for a job at Children’s Hospital. After an in-person chat I became the scheduling secretary for the department of surgery. I saw him daily and he always had a smile and a kind word for me. One day he told Cathy, the front desk secretary, and me that he was going to take us out to lunch the next day because it was National Secretaries Day. I was thrilled when the next day came and Dr. B. walked up to us and said something like “Come on, Ladies” and off we went. I can still see the big grin on his face. When we got to the parking garage and saw his little sports car sitting there with the top down, I was thrilled. Then he asked me if I wanted to drive! I’ll never forget driving through downtown Akron to the restaurant he had chosen. Once there he suggested we try shrimp cocktail. I’d never had anything so exotic and still think of Dr. B. whenever I have it. I can’t remember the name of the restaurant but I’ll never forget that car and that outing with him. I’ve thought of him often over the years and was happy to read of his family and many good friends that filled his life in NC. Mary Gill

Mary Gill - October 29, 2023 at 11:25 AM



Mary! He wouldn’t let us drive his car, ever! That means he really liked you and you worked hard and did a good job!! He was so kind and was a cheerleader for good people. Thank you for sharing! These stories are beautiful. Daughter #3

Nancy Boeckman Rosato - November 21, 2023 at 06:11 PM

JK

Oh I wish i would've known where he was so i could've thanked him in person. When I was 10 years old in 1973 I was near death my father was also a physician and after years of my suffering with severe stomach issues and several hospitals unable to find the problem my dad heard of Dr. Boeckman at Akron children's hospital- one day I collapsed and my father drove me 3 hours to the ER and yelled for them to get Dr. Broeckman when he arrived he ordered a bunch of tests and told my family i needed emergency surgery. That night my siblings were brought in and I remember one of them saying, "dad said you might die tonight " but I remember being so calm and feeling so at peace because after 10 years of suffering they finally found the problem and were going to fix me. Doctor Boeckman saved my life. I had a a gut that had to be reconstructed and lots of other things in my gut that needed fixed. My father said, it was an 8 hour surgery with several doctors and that he had wrote my case up in a case study at some point. I prayed for him over the years because He saved my life. I am 62 now and have 5 adult children and 3 grandchildren and have never had another stomach pain since. What a blessing he has been to this world. I thank God everyday for this brilliant man and that he was such a blessing in my lifetime 💕💕💕

jami Kightlinger - December 10, 2024 at 12:09 PM

DS

“ Dr. B was truly one of the greatest doctors I ever worked with. He taught me so much, from the time I started as a new grad until I had the honor of working with him as a Surgical Nurse Clinician. When he retired from Childrens, he was missed by so many, both the medical team and patients alike. He was truly a great man. A wonderful person will be forever missed. Sending my sincerest sympathy to your family.

Diane Staszak - October 23, 2023 at 11:43 AM

PB

“ We remember Cliff's infectious sense of humour, his kindness and generosity--we use several of his jokes in our repertoire today! We shared many holidays on the Flying E Ranch and visited the "Beehive" on the lake where we shared wonderful meals cooked by Lois or maybe Cliff using the Green Egg. The drink flowed-Cliff poured Heather the biggest glass of port ever-and the conversation was top rate. Above all, Dr Cliff Boeckman was a brilliant and kind human being and we'll miss him. May he rest, with, Lois, in peace,

Heather and Paul

Paul and Heather Byrne - October 20, 2023 at 12:25 PM

KT

“ Doctor Bachman called me the minute he finished surgery on my Spina Bifida daughter 42 years ago. We were blessed to have him in our lives and through our journey. He never got tired of all of our questions and concerns. He was always there to answer. Now he can visit her in their heavenly home.

God blessed him with a special talent and we were glad to be part of it. May your hearts be filled with many memories of a special doctor, friend, and family man. Thank you for sharing him with so many of us.

Karen Tavernaris and Haley Korom family

Karen (Korom) Tavernaris - October 18, 2023 at 08:06 AM

AB

“ Dr Boeckman was amazing very kind and nurturing gentleman. When my daughter was burned he was her doctor and took great care of her and no scars It happened while I was at work as an RN at St Thomas and when Doctor came in I guess he could sense my guilt. He gave me a big hug and simply said you could have been home doing the morning dishes and it still could happen. What a beautiful statement I felt instant forgiveness. He was a wonderful doctor and a beautiful man with all the empathy one would need Prayers for all who knew and loved him.
Anne Steinmetz Berrodin

Anne Berrodin - October 17, 2023 at 05:21 PM

LD

“ Dr B was just an amazing Dr and man! Worked with him in surgery and NICU. He taught everyone so much and kept you on your toes to give the best care to his patients. I'm so happy he lived such a long life to be with his family! Prayers and good thoughts for his family.

Lea Drake - October 17, 2023 at 05:01 PM

RM

“ To the Boeckman family, Your mother and my mother, Kay Gresock McCarty, were close friends growing up, so when it was time for a young me have a worrisome birthmark, and later an appendix, removed, my mother entrusted me to your father. I am very glad that she did. Your father put anxious me at ease with his kind manner. I will always be grateful for the way he treated me, both as a doctor and as a person. We send our most heartfelt condolences, Rob McCarty and family

Rob McCarty - October 17, 2023 at 03:32 PM

LI

“ It was a pleasure to know and work with Dr. B. He was always looking out for his patients and expected 110% from anyone taking care of them. His dedication and commitment to doing whatever it took set an example for others. Thoughts and prayers for his family.

Linda - October 17, 2023 at 03:11 PM

DG

“ I first met Cliff as an orderly at Children's in 1965. Later as a resident and over the years in practice I witnessed the greatness of this man in both professional and personal settings. His innovations in spina bifida care and burn research and therapy had a profound impact in Akron as well as the nation. My condolences to his daughters and family. Dr. Robert Gulmi

Dr Robert Gulmi - October 17, 2023 at 09:29 AM

CT

“ Dear Family, Anyone who was touched by your fathers hands is blessed. If they were lucky enough to work at Childrens Hospital and know him, they are truly fortunate. Your dad was one of the good guys! Will keep you in our hearts and prayers! Heaven is safer today with Dr. B there!
Christine Ternosky



Christine Ternosky - October 17, 2023 at 08:11 AM

MC

“ Dr. Boeckman made Childrens Hospital what it is today. He worked so hard and only wanted the best outcome for his patients. He taught us all that anything less than excellence was not acceptable. Thank you to his family for sharing himself it's us.

Mary Beth Cinadr - October 17, 2023 at 07:41 AM

BV

“Dr. B.” certainly put his heart and soul into all he accomplished at Akron Children’s and left a lifetime impression on his patients and those privileged to have worked along with him. We had such respect for his patient care, knew we’d better have our answers to his questions, and learned sometimes his gruff side was related to his lack of eating! We never hesitated to offer a treat from the nurses’ lounge, which always brought a smile to his face. He was a brilliant physician, kind human being, and touched more lives than we’ll ever know. God bless his soul as I am blessed to have had him in my life and my career at Children’s!

Betty Vandermeer - October 17, 2023 at 07:24 AM

DM

“First I want to thank you for sharing your father with so many. I had the pleasure of working with him at Children’s and learned so much from just watching him. His smile. His laughter. His dedication to his patients and their families. May his loving memories comfort you always. May his smile shine down on you each morning. May God bring you peace and comfort.

Daren Marshall



Daren Marshall - October 17, 2023 at 04:59 AM

KF

“ A truly amazing man! He made this world so much better by being in it. He was an outstanding community leader, an amazing surgeon and a roll model to all. His dedication to serve so many infants, children and teens went beyond human expectations. I had the honor of working with him many times while he was at Akron Children’s Medical Center. I thank you and celebrate you!! ❤️



Kelly Foegen - October 17, 2023 at 01:11 AM

BC

“ I had the pleasure and privilege of working with Dr.Boeckman during my early career at Childrens. Cliff was a member of the search committee that hired me as the hospital CEO in 1979. I obviously had a front row seat to witness his enormous clinical excellence and leadership. He and his wife Lois were gracious in welcoming us to the Childrens Hospital family. Dr.Boeckman was a phenomenal patient advocate and was loved by the families who connected with him. He believed in the importance of Childrens being an independent integrated pediatric center of excellence with a collaborative and caring spirit. At the Hospitals 100 year anniversary Marie Osmond brought Dr. B on stage at the Civic Theatre for a duet!!! He has left a lasting legacy of excellence focused on patients, family and friends. We are better individuals because he enriched our lives. God bless. Bill and Becky Considine

Bill Condidine - October 16, 2023 at 08:54 PM

KI

“ I knew Dr. Beckman when we both worked at Akron Children's. May your hearts be comforted. RIP

Karen Ingram - October 16, 2023 at 04:23 PM

JB

Dr Boeckman not only made his patients better, he made us nurses better for knowing him and his excellence of care. My condolences to all who loved him. JoAnn Bedore

JoAnn Bedore - October 17, 2023 at 08:58 AM

PO

My deepest sympathy to the families of Dr. Boeckman on his passing. The world has lost a truly great man. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Boeckman, not as a nurse or physician, but as the assistant to Mr. Considine. We share a great many memories of Dr. Boeckman coming into the office to meet, scheduled or unscheduled, to talk with Mr. C. Dr. Boeckman was a true advocate for the children he cared for and the hospital in general. I loved his response to how he was doing -- it never changed in all the years I knew him. You have all created lasting memories that will keep him alive in your hearts, and you know that his "excellent or better" outlook on life is now on the "excellent" side. Pat O'Desky

Pat O'Desky - October 17, 2023 at 12:04 PM

RB

I had the honor of working with Dr. Boeckman for many years at Akron Children's Hospital. As a general pediatrician, it was so comforting to know that he was there, always available to care for my patients that needed his skills. I, too remember his "excellent or better" attitude toward how his day was going, regardless of how hectic it was; and I have tried to emulate that approach. I am so happy he was able to enjoy many years of happy retirement. My deepest sympathy to the family. Rick Ball

Richard W Ball - October 17, 2023 at 05:14 PM

PM

I had the privilege of working with Dr. Boeckman as a young nurse starting in 1970. He taught me how to be a good burn nurse teaching the then state of the art burn care treatment that attracted patients far and wide. Accompanying him on 6 West or 4 East burn unit rounds, showed me how needed difficult conversations affected him as he often asked me to stay with the family and patient, offering support and comfort. Dr Boeckman came to my wedding in 1972, joking with me to now come back to work; my patients needed me, after the ceremony. One of his daughters babysat my oldest daughter bringing then precious sticker books to share. He continued to smile and wave as I dropped her off at home, even as I backed up over his precious flowers in the middle of the circular drive I can still see him walking down the halls in deep thought answerig his day was "excellent or better". I'm so glad he enjoyed a long life during retirement after he left us. You were the best doctor, surgeon, advocate, pioneer and friend! Phyllis Mesko

Phyllis Mesko - October 18, 2023 at 12:40 AM

EM

I met Dr Boeckman as an intern and then as a resident and practicing orthopaedic surgeon. He was a great doctor and surgeon as well as a good friend. He repaired my son's hernia and always inquired about how I was doing when I saw him after I entered private practice. My condolences to his family. May he RIP.
Herb Thompson

E Herbert Thompson MD - October 18, 2023 at 08:16 AM

GC

Our condolences to the Boeckman family on the passing of their father. We worked with Dr. Boeckman as nurses caring for his patients at Akron Childrens Hospital. His focus was always on others and their well-being. He demanded excellence and was a wonderful role model for achieving that goal in patient care. He was a leader and healer. May he rest in peace with his lovely Lois.

Glenn and Mary Campbell

Glenn Campbell - October 18, 2023 at 01:14 PM

PB

Dr. Boeckman was a lovely generous person who worked diligently to provide exceptional care to so many. I enjoyed working with him at Childrens. May his memory bring you peace and comfort as you remember his exceptional life.

Pam Baker - October 18, 2023 at 08:27 PM

RM

Dear Boeckman family. I met your father when I was a third year surgery resident at City hospital. Pediatric surgery was the only thing I was interested in even in medical school at Marquette University Medical School -- where Cliff also went to school. Toward the end of my very enjoyable

Cliff asked me to join him in practice if I was able to obtain and complete a ped surgery residency. I was truly honored by his offer. With his help and the staff at City hospital I went to the University of Pittsburg and completed my ped surgery training. Yea!! Back to Akron and many years with Cliff. It was an honor to practice together for many enjoyable years sharing the joys sometimes the agony taking care of sick children with burns, trauma and the premies. It was to comforting to have a person with Cliff's knowledge and skills to ask for direction and assistance in difficult situations. I was truly blessed to practice in my hometown among family and friends and excellent and dedicated physicians, such as Cliff, at a hospital that proved ideal in which to practice my craft.

Cliff and his dedication to medicine is the path we are directed to follow when we take the Hippocratic Oath at the graduation ceremony from medical school.

Before Cliff gets too much credit, remember that his wonderful wife Lois controlled his puppet strings. She was just what he needed to be successful, and he was aware of that and told me so.

The light of a single birthday cannot be extinguished by all the darkness in the universe. The light emanating from the lives of Lois and Cliff will reflect off all who knew them and be passes on and on.

God bless and watch over your family.

Bob Klein, M.D.

Robert L. Klein, M.D. - October 19, 2023 at 01:59 PM

MB

Cliff did eighteen months training at Alder Hey Children's Hospital here in Liverpool England and through a family connection I spent two summers in the late sixties working in Admin at Children's Hospital Akron Ohio before travelling round your country on a Greyhound bus. I stayed with Cliff and Lois on both occasions and the friendship with them and their family has lasted for over fifty years and now stretches to three generations. His own background made him determined to make the best use of his own talents devoted to the benefit of others. When the American surgeon and the English law student got together, we argued over everything usually fortified by a couple of Manhattans. Cliff was not exactly subtle. If he thought it, he said it loud and clear several times. But those early years formed the basis of a permanent lifelong friendship with him and his family, and for twelve years our families met each year at a dude ranch in Arizona for great fun and friendship. He married the only woman in the world who could cope with him, Lois, whom everybody adored. One look from the soft and gentle Lois and he went quiet. They were a fabulous couple together and with all their family they are all good friends of ours. Their four wonderful daughters are a great credit to their parents and each of them in their own way always reminds us of both their parents. Really good lasting friendships are hard to come by and friendship increases by sharing. In a world beset with violence and instability the example of Cliff and Lois and their family stands out as one of the best things in life, We shall never see his like again.

Michael Byrne, Rainhill, England.

Michael Byrne - October 22, 2023 at 05:05 PM

SD

*Dr. B, as many of us called him, was one of the very best physicians to work with. His high standards lifted us all to attempt to do the same. I do not know if he knew this – not much got by him, so I am guessing he did know – but the nurses on each unit would call the next unit to alert them he was on his way – which meant, be prepared, get ready, have your answers, and in the Burn Center, food was set out right on the counter he always approached. He always smiled when he saw the food, and you could literally see him relax. He had a way of letting you know, without being mean, that he was not always too happy with how things were – with “now boys and girls...” and “are you being a Mickey Mouse today?” This gained him a Mickey Mouse watch one day, courtesy of the Burn Center. One of my favorite memories was going with him to teach out-lying hospital staff members on how to prepare patients prior to sending them to the Burn Center. One warm beautiful day, in eastern Ohio, we were heading down an empty Rt 14 in his red convertible BMW, and he could not contain himself – he briefly put the pedal to the metal at 100 MPH – and laughed his is big laugh ! (I was shocked that he would do that, but probably should not have been!). I am so glad he had the retirement he always wanted and enjoyed it to the fullest with his family. Thinking of you as you miss him mightily.
Sharon Dietzel*

Sharon Dietzel - October 25, 2023 at 04:02 PM

SG

TO THE BOECKMAN FAMILY, I apologize for these late comments. I just learned about his passing today. Dr. Boeckman was the best. He took care of three of my children in the worst and best of times. Our daughter was born with spina bifida in 1981. Unfortunately she passed at 8 months of age. Because of the support we got from Dr. B and the staff at Akron we decided to adopt a baby with spina bifida. He was so supportive and helped us with the adoption. Almost immediately that baby needed a shunt revision and thank God he was there for us. Our youngest son was born with bowel issues and again we relied on him to fix the problem.

We met each of you girls on various visits in which we brought fresh produce and always a smoked turkey. My oldest son made him a clock when he retired. He will forever hold a warm spot in my heart. I know he spent many hours away from his family for his work. Those of us who needed him appreciated that. When he said call me he meant call him, not a resident or the doctor on call.

You were blessed to have so many years to spend with him in retirement.

Sue Gonter-Dray - January 02, 2024 at 09:30 PM