



Dr. Leigh Wakefield Kendall

February 11, 2023

Dr. Leigh Wakefield Kendall, 85, died at Homestead Village in Lancaster. Born in Brattleboro, VT, he was the son of the late Irwin Samuel and Laura Eliza (Walbridge) Kendall. He was the husband to Grace E. (Fullarton) Kendall for 58 years before her passing in 2019.

Leigh was very educated having graduated from Brattleboro HS in 1955, receiving his A.B. from University of Pennsylvania in 1959, his M.D. from University of Vermont in 1963 and his M.S. from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1965. He joined the US Navy Reserve in college and served his country during the Vietnam War on hospital ships the *Repose* and *Sanctuary*.

Lancaster became home to Leigh and Ellie as Leigh went on to practice and serve in many capacities at St. Joseph Hospital and Lancaster Regional Hospital for 36 years and as an active surgeon from 1971-93. He was past President of the Warren H. Cole Society and a member of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Leigh loved to travel and take photos of all the magnificence that he and Ellie saw. He was a dog and animal lover and was known to have a dry sense of humor.

Leigh is survived by two sons, Brad Kendall (Kate), Elizabethtown, and

William Kendall (Mary Carroll), St. Louis, MO: four grandchildren: James Kendall, Erin Smith, Benjamin Kendall and Andrew Kendall and a great-granddaughter Lilah Smith.

A private family Graveside Service will take place at the St. Thomas Episcopal Memorial Garden with The Reverend Jennifer E. Matson officiating. In honor of Dr. Kendall's service to our country, the Red Rose Honor Guard will provide military honors to the family.

Memorial contributions may be made in Leigh's name to Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17604.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Leigh Wakefield Kendall*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I was Dr Kendall's first office nurse in 1974. We set up the office when he left Dr John Atlee. Not only was he a kind and gentle person but I learned so much from him and carried that with me in my nursing career.I left in 75 as my husbands job transferred him to Williamsport and in December Dr Kendall called me and asked if I would return and work for him until my baby was born. Since I was pregnant I was unable to find work so I returned and worked until the day I delivered my son.Ellie brought me one red rose the next day
If and said it was from Leigh.
I even babysat Bill and Brad.
So glad I was able to visit with him at Homestead. We had lunch together.
Wonderful memories of both Dr Kendall and Ellie.
May they both rest in peace
Terri(Bell)Broich*

Theresa Broich - February 25, 2023 at 11:47 PM

KF

“ My condolences to the family. He was a gifted surgeon and very meticulous in his work. Yes, he did have a dry sense of humor but he was soft spoken and a caring person. He was an asset to St. Joseph hospital where I met him in the 1970's as a nurse. He did surgery on my son twice when he was 8 and 10 years old. I visited him after his beloved Ellie passed away- he missed her so much. Now they are together again. Karen Fralich

Karen Fralich - February 18, 2023 at 03:38 PM

BK

“ Bill ,Mary and James Kendall purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Dr. Leigh Wakefield Kendall.

Bill ,Mary and James Kendall - February 18, 2023 at 12:07 AM

AF

“ Dr. Kendall I loved surgery because of you. You always taught me well. "Treat the tissue like a lover, Miss Palmer." Then it was Miss Palmer, Landis after I was married...lol. You are and always will be a treasure. An awesome talented, gifted surgeon. I am Blessed to have known you, worked by your side, been loved and respected by you. Prayers to your family. Forever your friend, AnnMarie Fluke { Miss Palmer, Landis, Fluke :) }

Ann Marie Fluke - February 16, 2023 at 11:48 AM

MW

“ Dr. Kendall was my mother’s doctor back in the 80’s. He was very kind and caring and always generous with his time spent with her. When she died I received a beautiful hand written note expressing his sympathy on her passing. He told us he had lost a dear friend. He was an extraordinary doctor and friend. Well done good and faithful servant. Rest in peace

Mary Ann Williams - February 16, 2023 at 07:53 AM

LM

“ Dr. Kendall was always competent, kind, and ever the gentleman.

Louis J. Neureuter, MD - February 15, 2023 at 09:46 PM

KR

“ As Dr. Kendall’s office nurse for over a decade, I can say that the world has lost a brilliant surgeon and an extraordinary gentleman. He had a great deal of compassion for others and he was more than my employer—he was a dear and true friend.

Kathryn J. Thomas, R.N. - February 15, 2023 at 06:07 PM

CK

“ Dr Kendall was a dedicated surgeon, committed to the best care of his patients! As a staff nurse at St. Joe’s, I benefited from his knowledge and willingness to teach. He seemed intimidating at first, but that little crack of a smile at the corner of his mouth revealed his true character!

And that sneeze... I was shopping one holiday at Boscov’s and heard that terrible noise. I headed in that direction, knowing there is only one sneeze like that, to find him and Ellie choosing Christmas gifts for the family. When I mentioned how I found them, she laughed and said she had located him because of “the sneeze” on occasions as well.

Praying for you to comforted by good memories at this sad time

Cindy Keener - February 15, 2023 at 04:47 PM

LE

“ Dear Brad Bill and family,
I loved your dad. Living down the street from Leigh and Ellie, I have many fond memories. The funniest was running into your dad laye at night as we were walking our dogs. We would stand there for many minutes chatting and laughing. The poor dogs would be so tired of standing, they'd stretch out in the middle of the road. Then I realized Leigh was in his pj's and bathrobe.

I worked with your dad in the OR at St. Joes/ Lancaster Regional for a number of years and that's where his dry sense of humor came through. The stories I could tell you.

I'm so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Lise A Erdmann - February 15, 2023 at 03:06 PM

ES

“ Dr. Kendall was my mother's physician in the late 1970's when she had colon cancer. He was on vacation when my mother needed surgery and so Dr. Atlee performed the surgery. One evening when I was visiting my mother in the hospital Dr. Kendall came to visit her even though he was not her physician at the time. That was so thoughtful. Following her death, I received a typed note from him (typed by him) telling me his admiration for my mother's courage and demeanor. I still have this note today, forty years later. Dr. Kendall was an exceptional physician and person.

Elizabeth Smedley

Elizabeth Smedley - February 15, 2023 at 01:52 PM

BP

“ My condolences. As a family physician I got to know Leigh and enjoyed his friendly and conscientious attitude. I have good memories of him.

Bill Parke - February 15, 2023 at 11:22 AM

KF

“ As a staff nurse at St. Joe's I always enjoyed interacting with Dr. Kendall. He cared for his patients thoroughly and precisely, and he took the time for conversation and a little bit of humor. 🌹

Kathleen Flynn - February 15, 2023 at 09:32 AM

BY

“ I worked with Dr. Kendall in the OR at St. Joe's from 1980 until his retirement. I have so many fond memories of him and missed him greatly when he retired. As a scrub tech at the time, many hours were spent in close proximity operating on his patients but also allowing us time to have interactions which demonstrated his kind and humble nature along with his wonderful sense of humor. I always enjoyed working with him. He was a wonderful man; my condolences are with you during this difficult time.

Betty Yoder

Betty Yoder - February 15, 2023 at 08:40 AM

DM

“ As a family physician new to St. Joseph's Hospital back in the 1980's, I soon found Dr. Kendall to be my "go to" surgeon. Always a gentleman, and a "thinking" surgeon, his care of my patients was top notch. I enjoyed chatting with him about medicine and other topics as well. When my wife needed surgery, my choice was obvious-Dr. Kendall. I know his family will miss him, and I send my warmest condolences.

David Fuchs, M.D.

David Fuchs, M.D. - February 15, 2023 at 07:49 AM

AR

“ Leigh was my college roommate in Sigma Nu at Penn and best man at our wedding 9/17/1960.

Art Ricker

arthur ricker - February 14, 2023 at 08:00 PM