



Dr. G.R. Hershberger

July 31, 1935 - October 19, 2018

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Dr. G. R. Hershberger, Walkerton family physician for more than 37 years, will be held at 11 a.m. (Eastern time) Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Walkerton United Methodist Church. Friends may visit with the family from 9 a.m. until 11 at the church, with a lunch following the service in the fellowship hall.

Dr. Hershberger (“Dick”) died of congestive heart failure on Oct. 19 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison.

He is survived by his wife, Jo; children Karl (Theresa), Crete, IL; Paul (Vrinda), Satellite Beach, FL; Katie Neuser (David), Cross Plains, WI; and Laurie Pascual (Mark), Colorado Springs, CO, and grandchildren Brooke and Matt Hershberger; Uma Hershberger; Kyra, Kyle and Noel Neuser; and Scarlett, Caleb and Quinn Pascual.

He also is survived by sisters Shirley (Merle) Schaunaman, Walkerton; Jan (Jack) Berrier, Lakeville; sister-in-law Georgia Walmoth, Hazel Crest, IL, and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. Hershberger was born at home in Walkerton on July 31, 1935, to George and Irene Hershberger, who preceded him in death. He was a 1953 graduate of Walkerton High School and 1957 graduate of DePauw University, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

In 1994, he was inducted into the DePauw Athletics Hall of Fame for his achievements in men's cross country and men's track and field as a distance runner. He entered DePauw in 1953 with no experience in cross country but

decided to join the team in order to stay in shape for track season. Four years later he graduated as a three-year letterman in the sport and a co-captain his senior year. He took the two-mile championship at the conference meet his junior and senior seasons and set the ICC record in 1956 in the event. As a senior he also captured the conference championship in the one-mile run. It was at DePauw where he went on a double date that changed his life. In the spring of 1956, Dick and Jo Petry were on a double date but not with each other. It didn't take long for him to discover that the love of his life was actually sitting diagonally from him rather than across the table.

From there Dick and Jo went on to marry, raise four children, share far more laughter than tears, and travel through all 50 states and several countries in Europe. Last June they celebrated their 60th anniversary.

In 1961 he graduated from Kirksville (MO) College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following a year of internship at Saginaw (MI) Osteopathic Hospital, he returned to his hometown and, in July 1962, began his practice as a family physician in Walkerton.

"Doc," as his patients called him, was loved for his genuine care, gentle humor, and ability to listen. He used to say that, "If you listen to a patient long enough, he'll tell you what's wrong." He made countless house calls over the years and frequently welcomed a patient who rang the doorbell at his home during off hours.

He had staff membership at Michiana Community Hospital and St. Joseph's Medical Center in South Bend. A member of several professional organizations, he was active in his community and the Walkerton United Methodist Church.

Dick was never happier than when he was spending time with his family, especially at Lake Wawasee. He enjoyed sharing the bounty from the raspberry patch in his Walkerton garden with many friends and neighbors. He also managed to find the time to play golf at several area courses and scored his Hole in One in 2006.

In July 2015, Dick and Jo moved to Middleton, WI, to be closer to family

members.

Friends may honor Dr. Hershberger with a memorial to the Walkerton United Methodist Church, 1000 Georgia St., Walkerton, IN 46574, or Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd., Madison, WI 53705.

Rannells Funeral Home at Koontz Lake is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Walkerton United Methodist Church
1000 Georgia St.
Walkerton, IN 46574

Service

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Walkerton United Methodist Church
1000 Georgia St.
Walkerton, IN 46574

Tribute Wall

JF

“ Dear Jo, Maureen and I are so sorry for your loss. It was a joy and privilege to know Dick. I so enjoyed the many rounds of golf we shared. Jim Faletti

Jim Faletti - November 09, 2018 at 10:16 AM

SS

“ Dear Jo,. 64 years of happy memories. We always loved being with both of you, whether in Indiana or Florida. We will miss that. The golf was never great, but the laughter was. And oh the pie was so good! Know that you are in thoughts. Sue and Bob

Sue Supple - November 01, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ Feeny and family, you are in my thoughts today. I was so glad to see both of you at the class reunion, I know it was a great effort to make that trip with Dick not feeling up to par. But when we saw you, we knew Dick was close by! You and your family are in my prayers,always,especially at this time.Love and hugs, Bette Schmid

Bette Schmid - October 30, 2018 at 02:22 PM

SH

“ *Dr Hershberger was our family doctor for many many years with my family and children....he was kind, considerate and so very loving.....he was so good to my mother Pauline Knowlton and treated her as family.....he will be sorely missed.....when my son Chad dumped hot coffee on himself....Dr was unavailable and could not see him but sent me over to his house where Jo instantly helped put him in the bathtub to take care of his burns.....she was as kind and loving as he was....Thank you Dr for your service and love to our community! You are sorely missed.*



Sharon Halsey - October 25, 2018 at 10:15 AM

PH

“ *Jo and family I am do sorry to hear of Doc's passing. I remember getting baptized in your pool years and years ago. doc was always willing to help his patients with any of their problems. Went to him for years and never had better care. He will be missed by all.*



Paulina Vandall Hurford - October 25, 2018 at 09:39 AM

CL

So sorry to hear of Docs passing. I went to him for years & so did my daughter best dr ever & just the nicest man. I remember when my daughter needed stitches on her chin wirhout hesitation he said meet me at the office in ten min. It was wat after hours he teally cared about his patients. He will surely be missed.

Christine Lauderback - October 25, 2018 at 11:48 PM

GE

“ Jo, where do I begin, he was more than our Dr. He was my Moms boss and her friend. He was with me for my kids and my parents illness's. He was a friend, confidante and greatest Doctor we ever had. He will be greatly missed. My prayers and hugs are with you all.

Gail (Baker) Engle

Gail Engle - October 24, 2018 at 10:18 PM

BR

“ Jo and family. It was such a joy spending time with you and Dick over the years. New Years Eve has not been the same . You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Bryce and Carol Rohrer
Sarasota, Fla.*

Bryce and Carol Rohrer - October 24, 2018 at 09:05 PM

DE

“ Donna Erdelyi sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. G.R. Hershberger



Donna Erdelyi - October 24, 2018 at 05:19 PM

LB

“ Dear Jo and family.. I have so many good memories of you. The love of people that you both had was so obvious. What a blessing it was to have had Doc as our doctor. He went through all the tribulations of raising four children with me. I could always count on a smile and a calm manner from him. May God give you strength and comfort and fill your hearts with all the wonderful memories you made together.

Linda Benjamin - October 24, 2018 at 03:35 PM

RA

“ Mike, I, and family so loved "Doc". His kindness and support made out time in Walkerton all the better. A man of faith as well as a man of fun, his gentle spirit and humor blessed our church and the community of Walkerton. We hope to be at his celebration of life.

Rev Char Harris Allen - October 24, 2018 at 12:21 PM

FM

“ Such a wonderful man and doctor...I was very happy for him and his family when he could retire, but at the same time sad for myself...I have a very good doctor now thanks to Dr. Hershberger's recommendation, but is still not the same. Prayers for the family
Fred & Patricia Miller

Fred & Patricia Miller - October 24, 2018 at 09:07 AM

KP

So very sorry for your families loss...Dr was not only a doctor to many of us but he was also a friend...he truly cared for all of his neighbors as he felt a friendship with all of us...you too Jo was a friend to everyone...our community was blessed to have you both as part of a great community that you were very much a part of. Prayers for you and your family at the passing of a great man...he will truly be missed.

Kathy Pugsley - October 25, 2018 at 11:20 AM



Jo and family, please accept our condolences for your loss. Dr. Hersberger was the gentlest soul I ever met. I was terribly sad when he retired, not just for losing our trusted family physician, but losing one with such a caring heart. He saw our family through some rough times!
Terry & Melanie (Mullet) Shepherd

Melanie Shepherd - October 25, 2018 at 02:26 PM

SD

Dear Jo and family, My thoughts and prayers for you on the loss of Doc. He was a good man and cared so much for all his patients and the community. I know he will be missed by our family and many others.

Sally (McMahon) Dutcher - November 29, 2018 at 04:01 PM