



Christopher T. Drake

December 4, 1932 - March 8, 2022

Christopher T. Drake was born December 4th, 1932, in Athens, Greece. He died on March 8th, 2022, in Sarasota, Florida.

As a boy, Chris survived the Nazi occupation of Greece. Because his father had been granted US citizenship for serving the US Army in the Philippines as a physician, Chris, his mother, and brother also obtained citizenship status. They were able to board the MS Gripsholm, a Swedish cruise ship chartered by the US government to transport civilians and POWs caught behind enemy lines during World War II. They arrived in New York City on February 25th, 1946.

Chris then lived in the Chicago area, attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and then for medical school. He received his surgical training at Northwestern University, then established his surgical practice. He served as head of the Department of Surgery at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago for 12 years.

His affinity for teaching surfaced as he advanced in his surgical training and continued as he served on the faculty of the University of Illinois Medical School. His passion for his profession continued when he moved to Sarasota in 1984 where he was in private practice until retiring in 1996.

In the spirit of Ulysses, Chris sailed the waters of Lake Michigan and the Gulf of Mexico. He enjoyed for many years the camaraderie found and friendships made through participation in several area sailing clubs. Chris's love of family and friends sustained him throughout his life. He is survived by Suzanne, his wife of 65 years, as well as their three children, Diane Vincentz, Elizabeth Drake, and Nicholas Drake, and seven grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Frank Drake, a cardiologist in Sarasota.

Services will be conducted by Chris's nephew, Reverend Eric Brotheridge, at 11:00am on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022, at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 N Orange Ave, Sarasota, Florida.

The family welcomes memorial contributions to the scholarship fund for the Sarasota Youth Sailing Program (where his grandchildren all learned to sail), 1717 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34236.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel

40 N. Orange Avenue

Sarasota, FL 34236

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

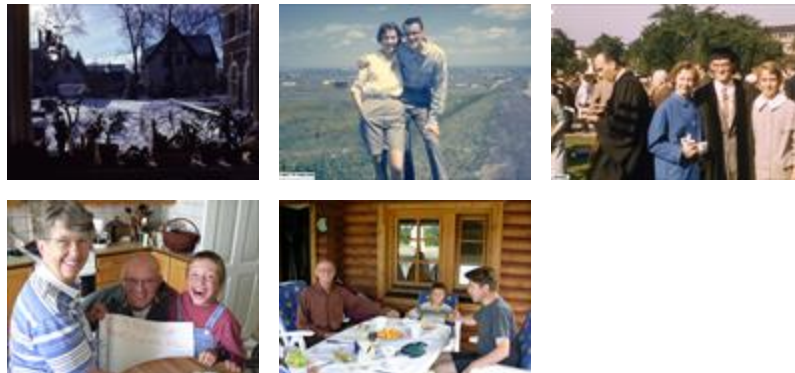


“ *Dr. Chris Drake was my mentor and friend when I worked in the OR at Illinois Masonic Hospital in the '70s. He was a superb surgeon, a wonderful, inspirational physician who created a joyful educational environment for those fortunate to have done their surgical residencies under him as well as inspiring confidence in himself and his department as a surgeon. Dr. Drake loved life and was a happy and good family man. I will never forget him for the brilliant career I owe to him because he wanted me to work in the OR of his hospital where I became the head of general surgery on the OR nursing staff. I learned so much from him. When he operated he loved to listen to Greek music and when he pulled away from the operating table he would ask me to dance the sirtaki with him. My most sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family. I will never forget him. May his memory remain eternal. God bless his soul.*

Louna Coumeri - October 09, 2022 at 03:22 AM

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“ 67 files added to the album Chris Drake photos



Liz Drake - March 16, 2022 at 10:06 PM

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“ 10 files added to the album *Chris Drake photos*



Liz Drake - March 16, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Christopher T. Drake*.



March 11, 2022 at 11:48 AM