



Dr. James D. Kingham, Col., MC, USAR

May 31, 2021

Dr. James D. Kingham passed away in Istanbul, Turkey, on Memorial Day, 2021.

Originally from Indianapolis and Ft. Lauderdale, he graduated from Perdue University; Indiana University-School of Medicine; Oakwood Hospital-Internship, Dearborn, MI; Medical College of Wisconsin-Department of Ophthalmology-Fellow in Retinal Disease & Retinal Detachment Surgery.

He considered serving his country to be the greatest honor of his life, along with being a father and husband. He served with the Marine Corp Reserve and the Army Reserve Medical Corps. He led his 324th Combat Support Hospital of Perrine, FL in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. He was a member of the Senior Army Reserve Commander's Assn; Assn. of Military Surgeons of the United States, and Assn. of the United States Army.

In 1981, Dr. Kingham opened the first retinal surgery practice in Sarasota where over the years he was beloved by his patients. He was active in the Retina Society, the Vitreous Society and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

In 1999, he moved to Istanbul and partnered in establishing the Istanbul Cerrahi Hospital.

Above all, James' family was most important to him. He so loved them and was devoted to his wife Songul and his children, Yasemin and Scott. He dedicated his considerable talents in raising and teaching his children and his nieces and nephews. His devotion and guidance is reflected in the fine persons they have become.

He loved Turkey and considered it to be his second home. He enjoyed oil painting, back country rides, walks along the Bosphorus - stopping to sit and read while enjoying the sunshine and the views.. He had a thirst for knowledge, the soul of an adventurer, never stopped learning and said he was never bored a day in his life. He was unforgettable, loved by many and respected by all. James will truly be missed.

He is survived by his wife Songul, daughter Yasemin and son Scott Kingham, sister Karel Kingham Schurdell, mother-in-law Sakine Tatliadim, sisters-in-law Birgul Tatliadim, Nilgun Tatliadim, and nephews Todd Schurdell and Onur Tatliadim.

Col. Kingham will be interred at the Sarasota National Cemetery, at 1:30 PM on Friday, June 4th, 2021.

Tribute Wall

RM

“*Dr. Kingham was a professor of mine for the three years I was an ophthalmology resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He was a good surgeon, a great teacher, and a compassionate doctor who always put his patients first. We shared an interest in sailing and enjoyed working on his boat always followed by a sail on Lake Michigan. We kept in contact by sharing a meal and bringing each other at the annual AAO meetings. I only recently heard of his passing and want to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.*

Dr. Robert Stofac, Maj. MC, US Army

Robert L. Stofac, M.D. - March 14, 2025 at 02:17 PM

SM

“*In August of 1975 at the age of 6 years old I had a retinal detachment from an accident and lost most of the vision in my right eye. Dr. Kingham was considered one of the pioneers in what I believe was laser reattachment surgery and was working at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the former Milwaukee County General Hospital. I was blessed and fortunate to have him as my Ophthalmologist and to this day I have 20/30 vision in the eye he worked on. Of course I never knew him after that short time, but today I stumbled across my admission card from when he performed surgery and recalled his name so I Googled it. What an amazing and full life he lived! Rest in peace sir, I am so thankful for your talents and that our paths crossed so many years ago.*

Steve Metz - March 12, 2022 at 11:06 AM

RP

“ My family and I will be forever grateful to Dr. Kingham for saving the life of my sister in 1991. My sister was diagnosed with melanoma on the retina of her right eye. Dr. Kingham not only saved my sister’s life he also saved her right eye. His compassion and understanding of the impact of this diagnosis to our entire family was world class. As it happens to most people when cancer hits they tend to shut down and are overwhelmed with what lies ahead. As I am the older sibling I stepped up to take over and help her understand what’s coming next. Dr. Kingham totally got where we were coming from and allowed me in the office for consultations, and even in the emergency room when Dr. Kingham had to remove the plate of radiation that was on her retina. I will never forget his kindness, his compassion and his ‘bedside manner’. Not only was he a great doctor but, more importantly, he was a great human being.

Thoughts and prayers to the family of Dr. Kingham. He made the world a better place.

*Sincerely,
Rosie Propes
North Port, Florida*

Rosie Propes - June 04, 2021 at 09:26 AM