



Dr. Ruel Wright

June 28, 1948 - January 28, 2023

Dr. Ruel Wright, 74, a former Bloomington, cardiovascular surgeon, passed away on January 28, 2023, in Sarasota, FL. He was born in Beaumont, TX, on June 28, 1948, to Ruel N. Wright Jr. and Mary Lewis Wright. He grew up in Dearborn, MI.

He is survived by his wife Judy, of Bradenton, Florida; daughter, Karen Dziejic (Shawn) of Chicago, IL; two beautiful granddaughters: Paige and Audrey; son, Michael Wright (Lorraine) of Albuquerque, NM; his sister, Barbara Basinger (Michael) of Laramie, Wyoming; his brother, Jeffrey Wright of Green Valley, AZ; his brother, Thomas Wright (Jennifer) of Cincinnati, OH; nieces: Esme and Phoebe Wright; and nephews: Eric, Will and Alex; and two dear sisters-in-law: Carol and Linda Billings.

Dr. Wright graduated from Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn in 1966. He graduated from The University of Chicago in 1970, and from The University of Michigan School of Medicine in Ann Arbor in 1974. He completed his residency and fellowship in surgery and cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago. Dr. Wright first practiced in Little Rock, AR, from 1982-1991, before joining Illinois Cardiac Surgery in Bloomington, IL, in 1991. He established Illinois Cardiovascular Surgery in Bloomington in 2003, and continued this practice until his retirement in 2009. He came out of retirement in 2014, to join The Vein Specialists until 2020. Dr.

Wright was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology, and the American College of Phlebology.

Dr. Wright enjoyed time with family and friends, golfing, traveling, reading and following his granddaughters in their sports.

Cremation rites will be accorded. There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ Judy, and family, just now seeing this on February 8th 2024. Ronna sent it me. Hard to realize this. Would eventually like to hear from you, Retired in Little Rock. My brother lives now in Hudson FLA. There are still a few of us left. We remember yall with fond memories. Steve Vogler (svogler219@aol.com)

Steve Vogler - February 08, 2024 at 02:03 PM

RG

“ Dear Judy, We are so sorry to hear this. We have such good memories of working together in CICU. He is a great loss and was a lot of fun to work with. I know you will miss him. I am on FB if you are ever in Tennessee Please look us up. Ronna and Paul Gangluff

Ronna Gangluff - February 08, 2024 at 09:19 AM

PG

“ Dear Judy and family--How much you and Ruel added to life in Bloomington, Illinois. We were blessed to have both of you active in community, especially in the arts. And Ruel's medical skill and ability to relate personally to patients made him such a favorite. When Walt Friedhoff needed a heart valve, Ruel was there--and through Walt's recovery and later, Ruel was a friend. I am sorry Ruel is gone, but I will always appreciate having known him. Pat Grogg

Pat Grogg - February 08, 2023 at 08:35 PM

SK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shannon Kernosky - February 07, 2023 at 01:47 PM

SK

Our work trip to Austin. Good memories

Shannon Kernosky - February 07, 2023 at 01:47 PM

SK

“ *Judy and Family,
I so much enjoyed working with Ruel. He was funny, patient, and kind. So many good memories. He has touched so many lives. Sending prayers for you and your family.
Shannon, Jason and Ethan Kernosky
(TVS family)*

Shannon Kernosky - February 07, 2023 at 01:42 PM

CB

“ *I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. NEW DOC WELL 30YEARS AGO THIS MONTH HE DONE A 5 WAY BYPASS ON ME AND THEN IN 2016 HE DONE MY VEINS IN MY LEG. ONCE AGAIN I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS,*

CLARENCE BUCK - February 07, 2023 at 12:46 PM

BB

“ Thank you for sharing Dr. Wright with us. We loved him and he saved my husband's life more than once. He was a kind man, a good listener, and a gifted surgeon. Fly high with the Angels. Our condolences to all who love him . Bill and Bonnie



Bonnie Bolen - February 06, 2023 at 11:24 PM

BN

“ Always with a smile on his face, Ruel is a wonderful man! Loved having him as part of our work family with my parents! Him and just have been a wonderful influence in my life! I will always keep his memories alive! He has saved and touched so many people for the good in this world!

-Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Nielsen



Beth Nielsen - February 06, 2023 at 03:47 PM

LB

“ Judy & Family,
I was so very sorry to hear about Dr. Wright. I enjoyed my time working for/with him and always enjoyed our talks. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Libby Booker

Libby Booker - February 06, 2023 at 02:35 PM

RK

“ I loved working with Ruel on the heart team. So sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed. Love and blessings to you and family.
Rosie Komar.

Rosemary Komar - February 06, 2023 at 11:43 AM

DS

“ Dear Judy and family,

What a sad day to hear that Ruel has passed away. I am so sorry for your loss. He has brought so much goodness to the community of Bloomington/Normal. Sending you my love, thoughts and prayers.

Deb Skillrud

Deb Skillrud - February 06, 2023 at 11:33 AM