



Philip "Doc" E. Kellar

December 16, 1933 - December 26, 2019

Philip "Doc" Ernest Kellar, M.D. age 86 of Valparaiso, Indiana, passed away on December 26, 2019. A distinguished and well-respected physician for over 50 years, Phil loved using his medical talents and capabilities to help bring healing to those in need. To him, being a physician was an opportunity to share his generosity and heart for others and in doing so, making more friendships than most. He never met a stranger; anyone was welcome to his medical expertise at home or in the office and hospitals, regardless of abilities to pay.

Born of Polish immigrants, Phil was very proud of his Polish heritage - from polka music to food. Growing up in Gary, Indiana, he worked hard and graduated from Kalamazoo College ("The best years of my life") and later Indiana University School of Medicine. Beginning in 1960, Phil started his medical journey that would see many successes, from his own family medicine practice to emergency and family medicine at St. Mary's Medical Center in Hobart and Methodist Hospitals. He held the titles of Chairman of Family Practice and Emergency Medicine at St. Mary's in Hobart and Methodist hospitals, as well as Vice President of Professional Affairs at St. Mary's in Hobart. Upon retiring in 2000, Phil decided he wasn't ready for retired life after all and continued working as a locum tenens physician for the next 16 years.

His favorite pastimes were woodworking and gardening, fishing and hunting, watching the Chicago Bears, playing on his computer, being a snowbird to Naples each winter with Dorothy, taking care of his kitties and spending time with his family who loved him very much.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Stephanie Kellar, Julia Kellar, mother of his five children and his son, Jason. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Minder-Kellar, the love of his life for over 35 years; sons: Daniel Kellar, M.D. (Jacquelyn) of Terre Haute, Randy Kellar (Brenda) of Snohomish, WA, Douglas Kellar (Jennifer) of Rogers, MN, and Tommy Forbes of Valparaiso; daughters: Jennifer Knowles (Rob) of West Lafayette, Laura Mull (Scott) of York Springs, PA, Sheila Forbes of Merrillville, Tammy (Steve) Aubuchon of Hobart, Wendy Whah of Chesterton and Kellie (Adam) Ballah of Chesterton. Phil was an exceptionally proud Dzia to multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved tickling their feet, giving them hugs, and doting on them to anyone that would listen. We will all miss him dearly until we are reunited in Heaven.

Friends are invited to visit with Phil's family on Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 2-8 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Visitation will take place on Friday, January 3, 2020 at 10 a.m. until the time of Funeral service at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 760 McCool Rd, Valparaiso. Interment Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville, IN. www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Visitation

JAN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
760 McCool Rd.
Valparaiso, IN

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
760 McCool Rd.
Valparaiso, IN

Tribute Wall

SK

“ Talking about Dr. Keller sitting in a hospital room with my Dad today
❤️ Fond memories, he brought all three of us into this world, ❤️



Stacy Partin Conway - October 22, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family
of Philip "Doc" E. Keller.



January 02, 2020 at 06:27 AM

KG

“ Doctor Kellar was our physician and has remained an icon in our family forever since. As a young husband, In 1971 I told him that I really wanted to be with my wife for the birth of our new baby. At that time the practice was not tolerated by most doctors. He smiled at me and said, “You won’t drop on me will ya.” He then gave me insight on what my role would be and what to expect. At the hospital he allowed me to dress with him in pre-delivery. He introduced me to his staff and made me feel as a part of the team. He also made sure that the real Star of the event was my beautiful wife Cheryl. The birth was the most sacred event I have ever experienced in my life. When Cheryl delivered, our baby arrived bawling. Doctor Kellar was impressed with her boisterous arrival. Cheryl and I asked, “What is it?” He then lifted the baby and announced, “It’s a baby.” Finally he fessed-up and said, “You have a beautiful baby girl.” Our elation was blunted as our baby seemed to be turning blue. Doctor Kellar reassured us, and magically dots of color grew larger and “Patricia” was beautiful.

In March of 2019, I had a health issue which no one could seem to diagnose. I sought out Phil and gave him a call not knowing how my call would be received. He was gracious, and generous. In our conversation, I re-shared the story of Patricia’s birth. He remembered the birth and told me that prior to delivery that the nurses were more concerned about me fainting than the delivery. He chuckled with delight when I told him that Patricia now had four of her own children. He then asked about Cheryl and told me that she was a very special Lady.

In subsequent years, Doctor Kellar diagnosed my Mother with a ruptured appendix saving her life with prompt hospital treatment. He was the go-to Yoda of medical knowledge, trusted care, and valued advice for my whole family. I considered him a friend and confidant and his ministry as a physician is legendary and deeply woven in the fabric of my family.

We are sad with his passing and extend our sincere condolences to

his family at home, as well as his family of patients whom he served so magnificently.

*Ken Glennon and Family
South Bend, Indiana*

Kenneth Glennon - January 01, 2020 at 09:02 PM

CC

Where do I start. I graduated from I U. I was the first ADN RN hired to work in ED in Hobart where Dr. Keller worked. He taught me to read x-rays, and offered to teach me to suture which I declined because first of all not in the scope of nursing but I told him he would get paid for it after I did the work. Never knew how his hair piece would look coming out of his room in the ED. After starting my job, he was asked to go pronounce a patient on the floor dead. I asked if I could witness it since I had not had that experience in school. When we arrived in the patient's room he told me to stand on the other side of the bed and listen closely. He bent down in the patient's ear and said "you're dead". He did have a sense of humor along with compassion. Thank you Dr. Keller you taught me much and loved working with you.

Carol Cammarata - January 09 at 06:44 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.*



January 01, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.



January 01, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.



January 01, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.



January 01, 2020 at 08:39 AM



“ Love Don & Cheryl, Dawayne & Kim, Kevin & Tish purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.



Love Don & Cheryl, Dawayne & Kim, Kevin & Tish -
December 30, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.



December 30, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ Dr. Kellar was my doctor growing up in East Gary. He set my leg when I broke it. He made going to the doctor relaxing and interesting.

Dr. Bob Kary - December 28, 2019 at 05:36 PM



“ Dr. Kellar brought me into this world in 1966 at his primary office in Hobart on Old Ridge Rd. Then, in 1999 while pregnant with my first child, I went to the ER with a bad gallbladder. Dr. Kellar was the physician that walked into the room to treat me. My husband told him my name and he remembered me instantly! As far as I'm concerned, he is a wonderful and caring person. May your memories of him bring you all peace. My sincere condolences to his family.

Donna Monroe - December 27, 2019 at 09:06 PM



He was my Dr from 1964 till he gave up his practice, he was not only my Dr but I considered him my friend, my condolences to his family

Linda Daves - December 29, 2019 at 09:21 PM

DM

“ *Dr Kellar took good care of all the McDevitts for many years. He was a gifted physician and a wonderful person. It was our privilege to have known him. Condolences to his Family- he will be in our prayers.*

Dan McDevitt - December 27, 2019 at 06:40 PM

DZ

Dr. Kellar even made a home visit when my late sister was suffering...always generous with his compassionate bedside manor...everyone he helped will miss him. Drs need to follow his message...sympathies..memory eternal

Debra zoumis - December 27, 2019 at 07:40 PM

BK

Doc Kellar became the Charles Krupchak family doctor and friend in 1960 and delivered my youngest baby Patsy. He encouraged me to return to school to get my RN degree which I did in 1972 He was the best diagnostian ever. I offer my prayers to his family and will see him soon in heaven. Bettye Krupchak

Bettye Krupchak - December 28, 2019 at 03:51 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.*



December 27, 2019 at 06:22 PM

BG

“ *Remembering lots of good times on Lincoln St. Ric Carter and Becky Carter Graves.*

Becky Carter Graves - December 27, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.*



December 27, 2019 at 06:12 PM



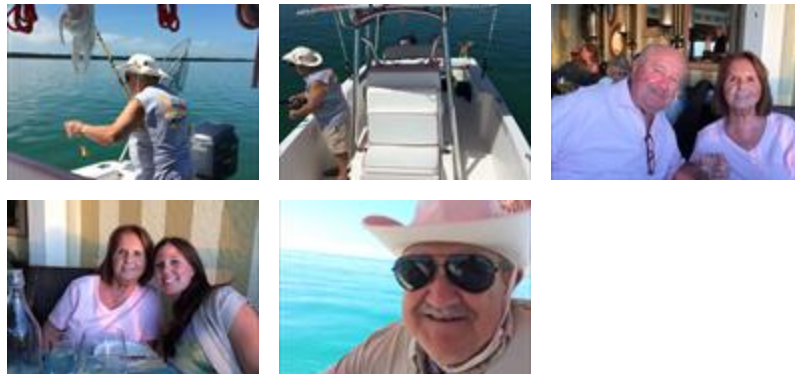
“ *Jamie and Donald Kiger purchased the Rose Impression Casket Spray for the family of Philip "Doc" E. Kellar.*



Jamie and Donald Kiger - December 27, 2019 at 06:07 PM

DK

“ Phil started out as my Medical Director for HealtheACCESS that grew into a great friendship. Once Jamie and I sold the Business and we moved to the Florida Keys he and Dorothy would come and stay at least twice a year. Dorothy and Jamie would go to Key West shopping while Phil and I would go fishing. We loved going out fishing and would spend the entire day on the boat. Phil had a great soul and was one of those people who was instantly your friend. I loved Phil and he made a major impact on me as a person and on my business. He was unique and had his own way of doing things. I respected him professionally and enjoyed his companionship and friendship. Here's some pictures of our fishing adventures.



Don Kiger - December 27, 2019 at 06:01 PM



Thank you, Don. He talked of you and Jamie often.

Kellie Forbes-Ballah - December 27, 2019 at 08:29 PM

PV

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you Dorothy and the rest of the family! May he rest in PARADISE. Praying for you all. Much love 🍀🍀🍀



Pamela Arnold Vargas - December 27, 2019 at 05:33 PM

MD

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Please except our deepest sympathy. Dr. Kellar was amazing with my children in the Hobart Er. Dorothy God Bless you. May he RIP.

Mary Ann Djankovich - December 27, 2019 at 03:20 PM

PP

“ I worked with Dr Kellar in the ER. Great Doctor and man. He will be missed. RIP

Patty Peterson - December 27, 2019 at 02:56 PM

SL

My family doctor since late 1960. Went to Lew Wallace School as well, but he was two years ahead of me. Greatest doctor ever! Have yet to find another like him Absolutely the greatest, 'doc' ever! Forever rest in peace, Doctor Phillip E. Kellar! Sandy Lockhart and Family.

Sandy Lockhart - December 27, 2019 at 04:55 PM

RD

Am so sorry to hear. He was a great family doctor! Treated my family and always felt so secure in his care. I spent 13 great years working for and learning from him. Ruth Dean

ruth dean - December 27, 2019 at 05:16 PM

SU

My sympathy to his family.....R.I.P.,,,Shirley Urbanek

shirley urbanek - December 27, 2019 at 06:32 PM