

Obituaries Written 2022

The Ogden Surgical-Medical Society extends its sympathy to the family and friends of our colleagues who have passed on. Their presence and contribution to medicine will be momentarily missed.

Virgil Parker, MD (1925-2020)

Virgil Jon Parker peacefully passed away in Alpine on Sunday January 26th, 2020, just one week prior to his 95th birthday. Virgil was born on February 2nd, 1925, in Joseph, Sevier County, Utah to Anna Irene Farnsworth and Alma Virgil Parker, the youngest of four. His father died when Virgil was three years old just prior to the Great Depression, resulting in a difficult childhood on many fronts. Despite experiencing many of the health challenges of his generation, Virgil was athletic playing basketball on the State Champion team, playing baseball and running the high hurdles and high jumping. He was musically inclined and learned to play trombone and piano. He had a lifelong appreciation for classical music and a love for playing the piano and harmonica.

Virgil joined the U.S. Air Corps in 1943 serving in World War II and was eventually stationed in the Pacific Theater, specifically the islands of Los Negros and Biak, where he worked in communications. He served for three years and later served a three-year mission in the France Mission. These six years foreshadowed a long life of service.

Virgil and Jacquelyn Abraham married December 14, 1951, six months after returning from his mission. He attended and graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in French, and later a medical degree. He was a lifelong supporter of the University of Utah Medical School.

After completing Internal Medicine residency at the County Hospital in Salt Lake City and the Veterans' Hospital in Portland Oregon, he co-founded the Central Utah Medical Clinic in Provo, which grew immensely over the years and is now known as the Revere Clinic. Virgil and Jackie were founding members of Camp Utada, a diabetic camp for young diabetic children, which they supported and worked at for several decades.

Virgil is known for his oil landscape paintings, and he greatly benefited from a decades-long friendship with and mentorship by Michael Coleman of Provo.

Virgil was the last surviving family member of his generation preceded in death by his wife, Jackie and his and her siblings / spouses. He is survived by his four children, Heather Kieffer, Holly and Thomas Holst, Matthew and Kari Parker (all of Utah), Paul and Heather Parker (of Vermont), eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Al Cobabe, MD (1917-2017)

Founder of Powder Mountain Resort passed away at his home in Eden, surrounded by family, on September 13, 2017, of natural causes, just 55 days from turning 100 years old. Alvin was born November 7, 1917, in Slaterville, Utah, to Fredrick J. and Hazel H. Cobabe. He married the love of his life, June Heslop, from Plain City, Utah, in Salt Lake City. Alvin and Jun were inseparable until her passing in 2011, after having been married for 74 years.

When Alvin was 16 years old, he purchased his first 40 acres of land in Wolf Creek. Thus, Powder Mountain Resort was born. A rancher, sheepherder, cowboy, electrical engineer, construction contractor, and a consummate gentleman, Alvin wore many hats. At 38 years old he enrolled at Weber College where he started on the road to medical school. He was accepted at the University of Utah at age 43 where he graduated with honors in 1963. At the same time, he was beginning the development of Powder Mountain. He practiced medicine in Ogden and opened an emergency room at Powder Mountain.

From a very young age, Alvin worked with his father in his sheepherding business and managed the family ranch in Eden. He also worked on the KLO Radio transmitter station and at one of the first TV stations while attending school in Kansas City. He also started an earth moving construction company where he developed a passion for Caterpillar tractors.

Alvin loved the outdoors, and he was always spending time in the mountains, especially his beloved Powder Mountain. He had a special fascination for medicine and helping people. Friends and family have beautiful, amazing stories about Alvin and how he has touched their lives.

He had many hobbies: obtaining his pilots' license in 1942, building his own plane, woodworking, crafting many treasured pieces, and spending time traveling with his family. He has achieved many distinguished awards including the Meritorious Service Award, Department of Family Practice, listed in Who's Who in Science, America, and the World, inducted into the Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame for 2008, honored as a University of Utah "History Maker" and recipient of the Emeriti Alumni lifetime Achievement Award, Weber State University.

He had four daughters: Carolyn Lowther, Gayla Folkman (Wayne), Shawna Van Meeteren (Clair), and Aleta Cobabe (Marc Paulsen). He was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren, two great-great-great-grandchildren, and 17 step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, June; daughter, Carolyn; granddaughter, Yvonne Lowther; and grandson, Kash Van Meeteren. The family would like to thank the special people who were his caregivers the last year of his life. He loved them dearly.

Jesse Wallace (1932-2017)

Jesse Lee Wallace passed away, surrounded by family, on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, after a brief fight with cancer. Born to Waldemar Wendell and Susie Josephine Wallace on December 30, 1932, in Vega, Texas, Jess spent his early years traveling with his parents as they established one-room schoolhouses across the plains of Eastern New Mexico. Seeing the results of inadequate healthcare in these small communities had a profound effect on him and at an early age, Jess decided he would become a doctor. It was to be a natural calling and one that would touch thousands of lives over the course of his career.

After graduating from Tucumcari High School, Jess attended Eastern New Mexico University. College was interrupted by the conflict in Korea, and he served in the Air Force as a radio operator with duty in Alaska and California. Returning to college, he focused on biology and chemistry as his goal was to be accepted to a medical school.

While working towards two bachelor degrees, Jess met a music major around a ping-pong table on campus. That student, Katherine Gutierrez, became his wife on July 2, 1955, as they married in his mother's home in Tucumcari. Jess was accepted to Baylor College of Medicine and soon the young couple found themselves in Houston, Texas, and the rigors of medical school. Graduating from medical school in 1962 and finishing his residency in 1963, Jess and Kathy with two young children in tow returned to Tucumcari to begin medical practice. Two more children came along, and a busy New Mexican life followed.

It was during this time that Jess took up a life-long obsession that he loved and excelled at, and sometimes didn't-golf. Some of his most cherished friendships were formed on the crucible of the tee box. The golf industry was extremely happy to have him as a sponsor.

The Wallace family moved to Utah in 1969 as Jess with partners Charlie Caton, Mack Davenport and Milo Andrus opened the first emergency room at St.

Benedict's hospital (now Ogden Regional Medical Center) in Ogden where he served as Chief of the Department until 1994. In 1982, Jess and his partners opened the NowCare clinics to help provide medical service to a burgeoning population. Jess retired from medicine in 1998. In retirement, Jess continued to enjoy golf, fishing, grandfatherhood, travel and playing guitar as Kathy accompanied on the piano.

Jess is survived by his wife, Katherine; four children and grandchildren: Renee and Paul Norris (Katee and Ali); Giles and Julie Wallace; Kelly Wallace; and Zane Wallace (Chase Stone). He is preceded in death by his parents, Waldemar and Susie Wallace and his brother, Wendell.

Leon White, MD (1928-2016)

Dr. Leon Howard White passed away peacefully at home on June 9, 2016, from age-related health issues. He was surrounded by loved ones his entire life, especially toward the end.

Leon was born to Samuel and Genevieve White on June 19, 1928, in Goshen, Utah. At Payson High School he set records in track and served as student body president. While attending USU he enjoyed going to dances, drama, tennis, acrobatics, and trampoline performance. Leon served as 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army where he led an ordnance demolition squad.

He earned the rank of Captain in the Army Reserve. The highlight during this period of his life was meeting and marrying his soul mate and sweetheart, Leone Barker, after they graduated USU.

Leon graduated from the U of U medical school in 1961 and went on to establish a solo medical practice in Roy where he worked as a pediatrician for 44 years. During his career he was named Chief of Staff at McKay-Dee Hospital, and also served as Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at McKay-Dee and Ogden Regional hospitals, as well as being on multiple committees. He was continually expanding his medical knowledge and was highly esteemed by his peers. Although he didn't seek it, numerous awards and recognitions poured in as a result of his dedication, kindness and love for children.

Leon had an active love for improving himself and seeking new understanding. Because of this, he actively served in the community and BSA scouts. In scouting he was a district commissioner and received the Silver Beaver Award. His passion for learning led him to develop special interests and skills such as wood carving, astronomy, electronics, HAM radio and new languages. He had a great love for fishing, hunting, camping, and exploring nature's wonders, always making family members a part of every outdoor experience.

His lasting legacy can be seen today in the faces and lives of his posterity and the many others whose lives he touched with his service and example. He will be terribly missed, yet we celebrate the fact that the world is a better place because he lived and loved.

He is survived by his wife, Leone, of Roy; their six children: Susan (Doug) Anderson of North Ogden; Gary (Kathy) of Summerville, South Carolina; Alan (Beverly, deceased) of West Bountiful; Wayne (Karen) of Joplin, Missouri; Paul (Judith) of South Weber; Don (Jeanette) of Clinton; 30 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents; his brothers: Darcie and Samuel; and sister, Gerry.

Leon, Leone, and their family wish to express love and gratitude to the many friends, associates, doctors and caregivers who have helped, loved and prayed for them through this difficult time.

Ed Morton, MD (1924-2015)

Our loving husband and father, Edward Dwayne Morton, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2015. He was born on August 6, 1924, in Waco, Texas to James and Gladys Moody Morton. He married Alice Jeane Barker on November 1, 1956, in Ogden, Utah. They were married for 59 years. He was a WWII Veteran and served in the United States Marine Corps.

He practiced medicine in Texas and Utah for more than 40 years. He served as Chief of Staff of St. Benedict's Hospital in 1976. He also served as Medical Director of St. Benedict's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center and Metamorphosis Drug Treatment Center. He was a member of the medical staff at St. Benedict's and McKay Dee Hospitals in Ogden, Utah. He was the President of Utah Academy of Family Practice in 1972, Editor of Utah Family Physician's Bulletin 1971 to 1978 and a member of Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. He was also a Volunteer Physician at Ogden Rescue Mission Clinic. He was an avid reader, photographer, and artist.

The family expresses our sincere gratitude to the loving staff and caregivers at Crestwood Care Center and Brighton Hospice. He was survived by his wife, Jeane;

daughters, Amy Ruth Morton-Miller and Cathy Jane Morton. He was preceded in death by his parents, J.E. and Gladys Morton; brother, C.L. Morton and infant daughter Sally Ann Morton.

Vance Campbell, MD (1924-2012)

Respected anesthesiologist, beloved husband, father and grandfather, patriarch of a large extended family, Vance passed away on October 31, 2012, and joined his mother, father, brothers, sister and many others. His life was full of accomplishments, service, adventures, and loving family associations. He is survived by his beloved wife, LuDean.

Vance was born in Delta Utah on August 3, 1924, and married his sweetheart LuDean, in the Logan after completing military service in World War II. Vance and LuDean had five children (Kathy, Susan, Karen, Kristine, and Gary) before completing medical training. He graduated from Utah State University and the University of Utah Medical School and had been a long-standing member of the American College of Anesthesiologists. He used his medical skills compassionately to comfort and to heal not just patients but also family, friends, and those he served around the world on three medical missions. Vance will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him and especially by his family, his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and sisters.