

# Obituaries 2021

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.

## **Robert Glen Mitchell, MD**

**November 30, 1931 – December 24, 2021**

Richard Glen Mitchell, MD, 90, passed away on December 24, 2021. Born on November 30, 1931 in Burley, Idaho, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho, and in 1958 he graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Mitchell married Marcia M. Keller, MD, in 1957. Following an internship in Philadelphia, he served as a Captain in the US Army Medical Corps in Nuremberg, Germany.

After the war, Dr. Mitchell moved his family to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he completed a residency in Radiology at the University of Utah, and served on the medical staff; followed by years of private practice at Salt Lake Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Mitchell is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marcia Keller Mitchell, MD, son of Stanley G. Mitchell, and daughters Connie Mitchell Vail, MD (Michael A.), and Jenifer Lewandowski (Jay), nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, sisters Joan Call, Marilyn Koyle (Dean), Linda Monk, and brother Gary Mitchell. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Barbara Mitchell, and his brother James P. Mitchell.

## **Merrill Anderson Godfrey, MD**

**October 26, 1934 – December 4, 2021**

Merrill Anderson Godfrey, MD, 87, passed away December 4, 2021, surrounded by family at McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah. He was born on October 26, 1934, in Lovell, Wyoming, the oldest of three children, Richard, Larry. He attended the University of Wyoming where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Dr. Godfrey attended graduate school in Nebraska where he received a medical doctorate from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine serving his medical residency at the University of Utah Hospital and Dee Memorial Hospital specializing in obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN).

Dr. Godfrey established a medical practice in Ogden, Utah where he resided and served the community. He was a partner in the Ogden Women's Clinic delivering babies and providing women's healthcare for nearly 30 years. His calm and soothing demeanor as a caregiver is an attribute forever remembered by his patients. In addition to a successful medical practice, he fulfilled many roles within McKay-Dee Hospital organization including Medical Staff President, Medical Director, Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and was a member of the board of trustees. He also served as vice-chairman of the IHC Health Plans board of directors. After retiring from full-time work in

2000, Dr. Godfrey volunteered as a part-time health care provider primarily providing patient care at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

Dr. Godfrey enjoyed traveling the world with his wife Evelyn. Together, whether it was by plane, ship, car, or motorhome, they visited unique destinations encompassing both pleasure and humanitarian objectives. Their humanitarian initiatives included administering polio vaccinations in Delhi, India, sustaining school and service projects in Ecuador, and procuring and distributing medical equipment in Mexico. Dr. Godfrey has many hobbies. Some of his favorite outdoor pastimes were golfing, skiing, bird hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was also an avid puzzler and loved to read anything in print, be it a newspaper, magazine, or a book.

Dr. Godfrey was blessed with six children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his brother, Larry (Elvira); children, Rob (Karen), Lisa (Ken) Beed, Chris (Natalie), Cresta (Brad) Jackson, and Janene (John) Sparks; grandchildren, Brittany (Eric) Newton, Brooke, Coleman, Nicholas, Chelsea, Layla, and Robert (Allie) Morgan; great-grandchildren, Parker, Sarah, JJ, Chevelle, and Hazel.

### **Richard Dean Wallin, MD**

**April 18, 1942 – June 13, 2021**

Richard Dean Wallin, MD, 79, passed away on June 13, 2021. Born and raised in Utah, Dr. Wallin graduated from University of Utah in Biology/Pre-Med and graduated medical school at the University of Utah's School of Medicine in 1968. Serving in the U.S. Navy and completing his medical residency at the Newport, Rhode Island Naval Hospital, 1968-1971, he returned to Utah to create St. Marks Hospital's Emergency Room Department, where he proudly spent his 30-plus-year career.

Dr. Wallen's interest in helping others went beyond the emergency room walls. He also volunteered his time as a medical consultant and actively participated in rescues for the Salt Lake County Search and Rescue as a sworn in deputy sheriff, from which he received a 50-year Medal of Distinction Award for bravery, medical expertise, and undying volunteerism to the people of Salt Lake County.

Dr. Wallen is survived by his wife Marilyn, his two sons Dr. Anthony R. Wallen (Jennifer) and Curtis J. Wallin (Deana), as well as four grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Randy.

### **Frederick Deiss, MD**

**December 5, 1929 – June 11, 2021**

Frederick Deiss, MD, beloved physician, passed away on Friday, June 11, 2021. Dr. Deiss was born in Oakland, California on December 5, 1929. He graduated from Pacific Union College in 1951 and earned his medical degree from the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University), in 1957.

Dr. Deiss had a love of the outdoors, as he was an avid fisherman and hunter. He would say that hunting was just a great excuse to get outdoors and spend time with his sons, son-in-law, and grandsons. Though they were often outnumbered, he took special joy in introducing his daughter, a couple of daughters-in-law, and several granddaughters to the great outdoors and to hunting and shooting. In addition, those who knew him well also knew that he was an avid reader; in fact, he always had a book handy as he was waiting to deliver the next newborn.

It was estimated that at the time of his retirement from private practice, Dr. Deiss had delivered more babies than any other doctor in the state of Wyoming to that date! Not infrequently, families would stop him on the street to thank him and provide an update on their family members. He was always gracious, kind, and seemed to remember everyone personally. His 'bedside' manner was sincere, warm, and life-affirming. He had the uncanny ability to smile with his eyes.

In "retirement" he was a professor at the University of Wyoming Family Practice program in Casper for over 30 years. In that capacity he trained a generation of young physicians who now serve in many of Wyoming's rural communities and surrounding states. Dr. Deiss practiced family medicine in several Wyoming communities and in Idaho and was licensed in Alaska so that he could take locum tenens jobs in their Indigenous public health clinics. For all of his contributions to the practice of medicine in Wyoming, Dr. Deiss was named Wyoming Family Physician of the Year in 1986 and Wyoming Medical Society Physician of the Year in 1995.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, his four children, two stepchildren (Debra Swedberg (Jay), and Alan Mitchell), 14 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

## **Howard McQuarrie, MD**

**November 8, 1929 – May 2, 2021**

Howard McQuarrie passed away on May 2, 2021. He was born on November 9, 1929, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Laura Gurr and Lamond Seegmiller McQuarrie. He attended Emerson Elementary, Irving Junior High, and East High School before becoming a pre-med student at the University of Utah, where he was also a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Dr. McQuarrie enrolled at the George Washington University School of Medicine in 1951 and graduated in 1955. He served his internship at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. Then he resumed his specialty training at GWU and the District of Columbia Hospital in Washington, D.C., and his fellowship at the National Institute of Cancer, Washington D.C. Dr. McQuarrie also served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Lackland Air Force Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. He married Pamela Anderson in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 23, 1956. They had a family with four sons, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In addition, Dr. McQuarrie was a diplomat of the Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He founded an impressive practice in Salt Lake City from 1961-1965. Dr. McQuarrie was received into specialty societies such as the American College of Ob-Gyn, the Central Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Pacific Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Utah Medical Association, Salt Lake Surgical Society, Pacific Coast Infertility Society, International Society for the Study of Humanism in Medicine (President), Federation of State Medical Boards (President), Utah Physicians

Licensing Board (Chairman), AMA Medical Review, and the recipient of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education Robert Raszkowski, M.D., Ph.D. Hero Award. After Dr. McQuarrie's years in practice, he served as the Medical Director of the Public Employees Health Plan until he retired in 2005.

He is survived by Craig Steven (Polly) and daughters, Madeline (Erich Scholz) and their children Chloe and Parker Kyle, Carly (Sheldon Goodwin), Michael Lamond (Diane) and his son, Kile (deceased), Matthew Scott (Andreja) and their son, Tilen and his daughter, Nina; Andrew Howard (Lisa) and their daughters, Olivia and Sabrina, and son Maximus.

## **Joseph Richard “Doc” Rees, MD**

**April 8, 1938 – April 30, 2021**

Joseph Richard Rees, AKA “Doc,” was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 8, 1938, to Dr. and Mrs. Don M. Rees. He grew up in Salt Lake and attended Stuart School, East High School, and the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he graduated at the top of his class. Later, he served his internship and residency program at the highly praised New York Hospital. Dr. Rees won many important awards while working there and met his wife Pat, who happened to be a nurse practicing there. After their marriage, they moved with their four children to Ogden, Utah, where Dr. Rees founded the Open-Heart Surgery Program at McKay-Dee Hospital. He was the initial surgeon to perform newly developed, life-saving surgeries. “Doc” served in leadership positions at McKay-Dee and Ogden Regional Hospitals. He was also a member of the Faculty of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Thoracic and Chest Surgeons.

In addition, he saved many lives, including when he traveled into an active combat zone during Operation Desert Storm to teach chest surgeons triage surgery. Dr. Rees worked in his private practice for twenty-five years and considered his patients family. He was still in practice right up to the point when his health began to decline. He and Pat created and taught the first Advanced Cardiac Life Support training for the community paramedics.

Dr. Rees is survived by his wife Pat, and his children Wendi Rees-Porter, Kelly Rees-Maw (Chris), and Rick Rees (Judy). His six grandchildren: Katie Wilkinson (Tyler), Michelle Porter (Krystiana Davis), Sydney and Jackson Maw, and Denae and Jaycee Rees. In addition, his two great-granddaughters and great-grandson.