

Larry Kaner



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Dr. Larry Kaner passed away at 92 in Portland, Oregon, on March 1, 2024. Born Seymour Lawrence Kaner in a Manhattan hospital on October 4, 1931, Larry lived in the Bronx, New York, with his parents, David and Bertha Kaner. When he was eight, they moved to Superior, Wisconsin, where his father owned a small grocery store. After attending public schools in Superior, Larry completed his undergraduate work and earned his medical degree from the

University of Wisconsin, Madison. While there, he met his wife, Betty Payne, who he married in 1955. The Kaners remained enthusiastic Badger fans.

In 1957, after his medical internship at St Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Larry took a "temporary" position with a family practice group in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, while expecting to report for duty after being drafted to serve as a physician in the Korean War. When the war ended shortly thereafter, he and Betty decided to remain in Two Rivers, where Larry continued his family practice for the next 40 years. During that time, Larry and Betty raised three children, Rob, Ric and Lisa, and became an integral part of the community with many close friends. In 1962, Larry and two other local doctors founded the Two Rivers Clinic. Larry was a highly regarded provider of medical care and advice to the families around Two Rivers, serving 20 years as the community health officer and the certified medical doctor for two local nuclear power plants. During his career, Larry delivered more than 2000 babies.

Larry was an active member of the B'nai B'rith and the Synagogue Anshe Poale Zedek in Manitowoc. He was also a member of the Two Rivers Elks Lodge. More recently, Larry was a member of the Beth El Congregation in Sheboygan.

Upon Larry's retirement, he and Betty spent winters in Scottsdale, AZ, where they developed another close group of friends. Larry was an accomplished bridge player and enjoyed playing blackjack at the casinos (mostly at \$5 tables). He golfed with regularity into his 90s. As friends and family knew well, Larry had a large repertoire of jokes and stories that endeared him to many. In 2023, Larry and Betty moved to Portland, Oregon, where they joined the community at Rose Schnitzer Manor.

Larry was proudest of his children and grandchildren and their accomplishments. Robert is a pulmonologist and Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Genetic Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City where he lives with his wife Ellen, a cardiologist. Richard is a professor of materials chemistry at UCLA and lives with his wife Sara, a child psychiatrist, in Pacific Palisades, CA. Lisa retired from her career as a business litigation lawyer in Portland, Oregon, where she lives with her partner, Peter Glade, also a retired lawyer. Between them, the three produced seven grandchildren who have grown into productive adulthood, proving one of Larry's favorite aphorisms: "Apples don't fall far from the tree."


Larry's wisdom, good humor and kindness will be missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife Betty, children Robert and Ellen, Ric and Sara, Lisa and Peter, and grandchildren David Kaner and his husband Brennan O'Rear, Jolie Kaner, Jordan Edelson, Fara Kaner, Rhody Kaner and her spouse Jake Palanker, Zoe Edelson and Gilon Kaner.

Services will be held at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 3 PM.

Remembrances can be made to: the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association; Lester Public

Library, Two Rivers, WI; The Neshotah Charitable Foundation, Inc., Two Rivers, WI' The Jewish National Fund.

Posted online on March 02, 2024

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