



John Douglas Conger

June 22, 2020

Dr. John Conger joined his Heavenly Father on June 22, 2020, after a battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

John grew up in Nezperce, Idaho with his parents and three brothers, both farming and helping his family run the Lewis County Herald. His early years were filled with sports, academics, boy scouts (earned eagle scout), fishing, and music. Receiving both music and academic scholarships, John attended Seattle University, where he met the love of his life, Carol. They were married May 13th, 1961 at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Seattle, WA.

Shortly thereafter, John graduated from Seattle University and went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the University of Washington. He continued his training at Great Lakes Naval Hospital in the Chicago area, and spent 1 year serving in Vietnam as a Nephrologist, creating the first dialysis unit aboard a US Naval hospital ship. He always remained very proud of the US Navy and his faithful service. Upon returning from Vietnam to his loving wife and, by then, 5 children, he completed his fellowship training at the University of California-San Francisco.

In 1973, he moved his family to the wonderful state of Colorado where he became a Professor of Medicine on the staff of the University of Colorado-Denver and the United States Veteran's Administration. In 2000, he retired from the VA as the Associate Dean and Chief of Staff of the VA Medical Center.

John dedicated his professional life to the advancement of medical research in treating acute renal failure, where his research and publications are known globally. For many years after his service in Vietnam, the Federal Government requested John's assistance in treating kidney failure related to combat trauma, and many of his techniques remain relevant in U.S. military medicine. Countless kidney patients have lived longer, richer lives, thanks to Dr. Conger's efforts.

As a devoted Catholic, John was active in many congregations throughout his life. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Ft. Collins, CO provided him comfort and care in his final days.

In addition to his professional career, John enjoyed reading, fishing, backpacking, mountain climbing, and traveling. He was a devoted husband and had a special relationship with each of his children, imparting the importance of responsibility, diligence, and consideration.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carol, and their five children: David Conger of Clifton Park, NY, James Conger (Suzan) of Denver, CO, Paul Conger of Fullerton, CA, Carolyn Harvey of Boise, ID, and Catherine Scholz (DeRay) of Castle Pines, CO. Grandchildren include Christina (Brandon) and John Conger, Kimberly and Christopher Conger, Grace and Leah Harvey, and Amanda and Daniel Scholz, and one great-grandchild, Mason.

Services will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado on Thursday, June 25, 2020, including a Rosary at 10 a.m., followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m.

His final resting place will be alongside his parents in Nezperce, Idaho. Donations can be made to: Alzheimer's Association at www.ALZ.com.

Comments



“ I knew Dr Conger after he "retired" and worked in the ER at the VA. Always so pleasant and knowledgeable. I will miss this gentle man. Ed Chan

Ed Chan - June 25 at 03:40 PM



“ A wonderful man, great leader boss, doctor ,and friend.

God bless you with many fond memories.

Tom Meyer

thomas Meyer MD - June 25 at 02:12 PM



“ John was a good friend during my 38 years on faculty at the Denver VAMC. As Assistant Chief of Staff for Research, he made a big difference for me during one of those disappointing times that all researchers go through by giving me advice and arranging for partial salary support for my technician as we developed more preliminary data to support my grant. Years later, he provided valuable advice when my father's health was failing. John was obviously a smart physician and scientist, but what I liked best was his sense of humor.

York Miller - June 25 at 12:42 PM



“ Many found memories of our time together in nephrology research at Colorado. John was a great teacher, friend and fine fly fisherman. Dr. Tom Burke.

Tom Burke - June 24 at 12:22 PM



“ A great physician, teacher, mentor and leader . Allan Bucknell ,MD, VAMC Orthopaedic Surgery

Allan Bucknell - June 24 at 03:05 PM



“ I first met Dr. Conger, shortly after he became Chief of Staff at the Denver VA Medical Center in the late 1990s. The thing I will never forget was his response to a casual comment I once made about his service during the Vietnam War. How incredibly challenging it must have been to practice life-saving kidney care to many horrifically injured soldiers during the infancy of renal medicine. He became quiet and looked away, then turned back to me and said, "We did the best we could. I think about them every day: the boys we couldn't save."

I admired Dr. Conger greatly and may he rest in easy in the knowledge that he truly did make a difference.

Steve Oboler, M.D. & Sylvia Oboler, M.D.

Steven Oboler - June 25 at 12:08 PM



“ A wonderful micropuncturist and kidney research associate. W.D.Kaehny, MD

WD Kaehny, MD - June 25 at 02:06 PM



“ I am sorry to learn of John's passing. We were colleagues years ago in nephrology at the University. He was a terrific doctor and a gentleman. My condolences to his family.

Patricia A. Gabow - June 29 at 09:30 PM



“ I am so sad to hear about this great man passing worked with him in the ER and it was a pleasure.He was such a caring Doctor.He will be missed.

Connie Haseloh - July 01 at 08:41 PM



“ I am so sorry to know of his passing. He was greatly loved and admired by many who worked with him during his long year's of service to the VA. My sincere condolences to those who loved him.

JoAnn Jackson, RN, BSN - July 02 at 08:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Cat Scholz - June 23 at 10:05 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Memories Album



Cat Scholz - June 23 at 10:02 PM