



Mervin Specht, M.D.

December 9, 1942 - July 13, 2003

"Mervin Specht, M.D."

IRON MOUNTAIN - On Sunday, July 13, 2003, Mervin John Specht, M.D., went to be with his Savior after a short bout with cancer.

Merv was born Dec. 9, 1942, and was raised in Duluth, Minn. He played hockey throughout his youth and was part of the PeeWee team that won the national championship in Lake Placid, N.Y., in 1957. He was active in scouting (received his Eagle Scout and God and Country Awards), and served as president of the student council at East High School in Duluth and president of the freshman class at the University Minnesota-Duluth. Merv grew up in Hunter's Park, where he married his prom date, Sue Carlson. They were married for 41 years.

The main focus of his life was his love for God. Merv dearly loved his wife, his daughters, Penny and Sally, and his four grandchildren.

Merv was fortunate to be awarded scholarships through premed at UM-D, and Medical School at the University of Iowa School of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa. He interned at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. He was given the residency of his choice in diagnostic radiology and the University of Michigan. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a major, and was stationed at Beale AFB in California during the Vietnam War.

He was a radiologist in Marquette for three years and in Iron Mountain for 26 years. He was privileged to have worked with his esteemed colleagues at Dickinson County Healthcare System (DCHS). He served as chief of staff,

chairman of the department of radiology, chairman of the ethics committee and chairman of medical records of DCHS.

Merv was a member of the Christian Medical and Dental Society, American Medical Association, American College of Radiology and many other professional organizations. It has been announced that the new imaging center at DCHS will be named in his honor.

He was proud of his church family at Maranatha Assembly of God, where he was a former deacon and trustee.

Merv was blessed with a very close relationship with his sister, Marilyn, and Sue's brothers, Steve and Dave (and their families). Highlights of every year were the times when the whole family would gather together. He also loved boating, canoeing, reading and chasing his grandchildren around.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mervin and Helvi Specht, and a brother, Marty.

Merv is survived by his wife, Susan Carlson Specht of Iron Mountain; his daughters, Penny Specht Olson of Kingsford and Sally Specht (James, Esq.) Browning, Esq. of St. Louis; his grandchildren, Matthew John Olson, Christie Marie Olson, Ashley Emma Browning, and Zoe Madeline Browning; his sister, Marilyn Specht (Dr. Jim) Thomas of Santa Barbara, Calif.; brothers-in-law, T. David (Lynn) Carlson of Duluth and Dr. Stephen (Patti) Carlson of Virginia Beach, Va., and nieces, Lauren Thomas of Boulder, Colo., Chloe Thomas of Santa Barbara, Maren Carlson of Arlington, Va., Kirsten Carlson (Chris) Furr of Charlotte, N.C., Beth Carlson of Duluth and Kelly Carlson of Duluth.

He and the family would like to give special thanks to his friend and physician Dr. Stephen Leonard, Mary Grable, R.N., Diane Smith, and Mary Morrison of Marquette General Hospital and Home Health.

Pallbearers are family members, Dr. Stephen Carlson, David Carlson, James Browning, John Olson, and Matt Olson, and fellow radiologist and friend, Dr. Dale Shampo.

Viewing will be at Maranatha Assembly of God Church in Kingsford on Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The funeral to celebrate Merv's life will be held at the church Friday at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Marquette General Hospice Program, Dickinson County Hospital Memorial Fund or Maranatha Assembly of God Church Foreign Missions.

Condolences may be expressed to the Specht family online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

Tribute Wall

AB

“ Papa, I hope you'd be proud of me from up there. I miss you, I like to think you're always watching over me. I get told I embody your personality's a lot. I'm always "mervin' it" as others would say to me. I miss you. Don't worry, I'm taking good care of grandma and the family. Love you, until we meet again. Ash

Ashley Browning - April 03, 2024 at 12:07 AM

JS

“ Dear Sue, Sally and Penny: It has been about 30 years since Geri and I last saw you and Merve and the girls. Just tonight, Geri and I were talking about all of the wonderful people that we remember so well from the UP and of course, Merve and your name came up. I know it's been 6 years since Merve has gone home to be with the Lord but when Geri and I looked you up on the internet and found this site, we just had to send a note of remembrance. You and your beautiful family were very special people in our lives. Merve and your kindness to us will never be forgotten.
In Jesus,
John and Geri Schwartz

John Schwartz - October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Sue, Penny & Sally

I don't know what to say, I'm sorry doesn't say enough to ease the sorrow you are now experiencing. We grieve for the loss your suffering.

Yes, absolutely Merv is Home. But your left here without him and for that I wish I could say or do something to soothe that pain.

Your letter with the flyer of pictures chronicling his life is an outstanding presentation. It certainly is a celebration of Merv. Know we love you, we're way back here in Maine but as close as the Holy Spirit ministering our prayers of comfort to you through Him.

Suz, Mike, Jon & Tamera

Susan Coffman - August 11, 2003 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Dear Sue & Family,

Merv's service last night was the most awesome experience we have ever had! It was wonderful to have the service in your home church, a family setting. We will miss Merv so much, he has touched many lives during his short time here on earth and even brought souls to Jesus last night! That was so beautiful! We will continue to pray for you and your family. In Christian Love,

Tracy, Betty, Ashley, & Johnathan Dupuis - July 19, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Sue, Sally and Penney and families:

We extend our sympathy to you and pray for the peace and comfort of our loving Heavenly Father to be with you. We appreciate all that Merve has done in his community and his church. He left a fine legacy for his family. We appreciate his committment to God, family and church family. May the Lord bless you always. Love, Ruth & Jim

Jim & Ruth Brandt - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Dear Sally and Family:

I was so sorry to hear about your loss. I know what a special person your Dad was and how much you are going to miss him. Know that you and yours are in my prayers.

Hugs!!!!!!!!!!

Dyan - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ We would like to extend our sincere condolences to you and your family for the loss of your father. We are thinking of you. Please let us know if there is ANYTHING we can do for you when you get back.

MOMS Club of Kirkwood - July 18, 2003 at 12:00 AM

ID

“ We would like to offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Merv Specht. Even though Dr. Specht was only here at Iron County Community Hospital a few times, he will always be remembered as a very kind man. He will certainly be missed.

ICCH Transcription Department - July 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Merv must have made a big impression on me, when I was 12, because I remember him as one of the "older boys" from that team that went from the Fryberger rink on Woodland Ave to Lake Placid. I remember his 47-48 green Pontiac. Although, I have had no contact with him since those days, I remember him as very generous with his time and willingness to show us the finer points of the game. His entire life was an example to us all.

Good Bless

Dick Myers - July 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Susie and family, What a shock it was to see Merv's obituary in the paper last night. My heart goes out to all of you at this very difficult time. Sue, we just had a reunion of the group of us that are still close, and have been since high school. Donna Harvey is one of those, and she asked about you. Little did I know what you were going through at the time she asked. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! Love, Carol/Paul

Carol Nelson - July 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I am a friend of Sally's from Missouri. My family's thoughts and prayers are still with your family in this difficult time. Our condolences go out to your family. As I read on the website, Dr. Specht; your husband, father, grandfather, & family member lived such a full life and was blessed with such a loving and caring family.

God bless!

Becky Staerk - July 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Hello Sue, Penny, Sally, and family:
I am so sorry to hear about Dr. Specht and wanted to send my thoughts and prayers to you. I will always have fond memories of him! He was a kind, gentle person and I consider myself lucky to have known such a great person. Again, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Remember that strength is within the family, so hold on to each other. God bless!

Cindy Nocerini Dingell - July 15, 2003 at 12:00 AM