



Warren Roberts

April 29, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Warren J. Roberts, M.D., 85, died Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

He was born in the small town of Columbus, Wis. on April 9, 1923, son of the late John Jay and Margaret (Owens) Roberts. He spent his youth in Columbus where he won music and vocal competitions playing the violin and singing. He loved sports and played football, basketball, and baseball all through high school.

He attended Carroll College for a year and then transferred to Michigan State University. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to a medical corps. He returned to Michigan State in the pre-medical program. While there, he met and courted the undying love of his life, Helen Ann Jolliffe. They were married in Lansing on July 7, 1945.

He attended medical school at Wayne State University in Detroit and did his internship at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. He was called back into the service, the U.S. Army, after three years of general practice in Arkansas. While in the army, he went on to specialize in orthopedic surgery. He completed his active duty with a 16 month tour in Seoul, Korea and six months at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Late in 1960, he moved his family to Iron Mountain where he joined the medical staff at the newly opened VA Hospital. In 1973 he left the VA Hospital and started a private practice in Iron Mountain. He became the first orthopedic surgeon at Dickinson Memorial Hospital. His son, Gary Roberts, M.D., joined him late in 1977.

Warren remained in full active practice for the next eight years and then slowly decreased his workload over the next 12 years before retiring. During his career as an orthopedic surgeon, he was Board Certified and selected as a Fellow of both the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the College of Surgeons. He was a founding member of the American Trauma Society and received a special recognition citation from the mayor of Seoul, Korea for his volunteer work with the orphaned children. He joined a group of local physicians to build a medical office building with the goal of attracting new doctors to the Iron Mountain-Kingsford area in 1975.

During the various phases of his 48 year career, he was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, an enthusiastic member of the Great Books Club, and sang the baritone part in the yearly Easter production of the Seven Last Words.

He and his wife enjoyed golf and tennis. Warren treasured her friendship and companionship throughout his lifetime. He willingly loaded several pounds of photography equipment through the woods for her on the numerous trips to photograph flowers and birds. He enjoyed numerous family tennis, ping pong, and baseball tournaments through the years. He remained enjoyably competitive until Alzheimer's disease made it impossible to participate. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren carry on his athletic legacy when he wasn't cheering on the Chicago Cubs, Green Bay Packers, or the MSU Spartans.

He remained an avid reader throughout his life and enjoyed classical music and opera. He had a great sense of humor and his laughter will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen; five children; Gary (Wendy) Roberts, M.D. of Iron Mountain, JoAnn (George) Dyzikes of Western Springs, Ill., David (Amy) Roberts of Swampscott, Mass., Donald (Chris) Roberts of Chelesee, Mich., and John (Teresa) Roberts of Columbus, Ohio; one sister, Dorothy Scholtens of Ft. Myers, Fla.; 17 grandchildren, Jason (Michelle) Roberts, Nikole (Peter) Drever, Jessica (Scott) Cameron, Nathan (Michelle) Roberts, Megan Roberts, Jaclynn Roberts, Kelsey Roberts, Jaime Roberts, Cindy Dyzikes, Stephanie Dyzikes, Emma Roberts, Camille Roberts, Scott Yates, Joel Yates, Jay Roberts, Sujata Roberts, and Zachary Roberts; and 13 great-grandchildren

Friends may call on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, at the funeral home. Rev. Michael March will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Family Ties Adult Day Care Center at 800 Crystal Lake Blvd., Iron Mountain, Mich. 49801

Condolences to the family of Dr. Warren Roberts can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

CO

“ Dear Helen and family, As We reflect on our shared past, Xmas and Thanksgiving family dinners stand out as well as dinner and bridge (with cigars for the men) at your De Forrest apt. There were only Gary, JoAnn and twins David and Donald at that time. Warren sang at our wedding and the volume of his voice really surprised the locals. We went west, and years later, a quick visit to Iron Mt. and recently your stop in Tucson have been the extent of our getting together. Our sympathy to you all at Warren's death.

Charles & Evelyn Owen - May 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Dear Don, Chris, and family of Dr. Roberts, I want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time of loss. Reading the obituary about your father's humor, I can appreciate more fully where Don has come by his great sense of humor. A great gift to pass on. Peace and Love Always

Lesta Preston and family - May 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Dear family of Dr. Roberts, my heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you at this sad time. I have very fond memories of your father and mother during my high school years and the many hours I spent at your home. Your father was a great man and a joy to be around, I'm sure he will be missed greatly by you and everyone that knew him.
Thomas Kuhn

Thomas R. Kuhn - May 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Dear family of Dr. Roberts, I enjoyed talking to him when he walked by in past years. The last few years he would smile and wave as you all would drive him by. That will be sadly missed. My sympathy to you all.

Ray Famiani - May 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Helen, Gary and family: I will never forget Warren and the years from the VAH to Medical Park and beyond. Warren always had my deepest respect as one of the finest physicians I have had the honor to work with.

Dr. Robert G. Calderwood - May 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Dear DR Gary, Wendy & THE Roberts Family, It was a great honor for me to have known and to have worked with Your Dad at the VA Hospital for many years in surgery .He was a kind and gentle excellent surgeon. I learned so much from him. Later it was a pleasure to be one of his patients and to get to know his wife. John and I extend our sympathy to all your family. Maryann Perla

MARYANN PERLA - May 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Dear Helen, Dr. Gary and family, You have our deepest sympathy in the loss of Dr. Warren. We have such good thoughts and memories of his wonderful caring treatment of everyone and his great sense of humor. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Sincerely, Anita and Glen.

Anita and Glen Westphal - May 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear family of Dr. Roberts, As a new RN I had the pleasure of working with your husband and father at the VA Hospital in IM in 1962-63. It was my first position and I learned so much from him and enjoyed his good humor. He was kind, professional and a good mentor. Martha(Nicholls} Schinderle

Martha Schinderle - May 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM