



James Jesse Wheeler

July 24, 1940 - January 3, 2023

On January 3, 2023, James J. Wheeler Sr. MD, of Bloomington, MN died peacefully at the age of 82. Jim was born in Minneapolis on July 24, 1940, to John and Emma (Fisher) Wheeler. The youngest of three children, he grew to be a multiple sport athlete elected to the Robbinsdale High School Athletic Hall of Fame. In college, he earned the starting tackle position on the Minnesota Gophers football team (1960 National Champions, 1962 Rose Bowl champions), receiving Academic All-Big Ten honors. Although drafted by the National Football League, he would choose a different path. From 1964 through 1966, Jim lived in the Usambara mountains of Tanzania working as a teacher at the Magamba Secondary School. For a time, he considered entering the Lutheran ministry, but was ultimately drawn to a career in medicine. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School (Class of 1972) and residency training at Hennepin County Medical Center (1973-1975), he spent most of his career as a member of the Park Nicollet Internal Medicine department. Jim possessed a deep love for poetry, the cabin on Lake Superior, and time in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Most of all, he loved his family and friends. He sought to find the beauty in life and the interconnectedness of things, and inspired others to do the same. Jim is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Nancy Jarvis, sons Jess (wife Cheryl), David, Daniel (wife Ayesha), and Steven; three grandchildren (Christian, Uma, and Bodhi); brother John, sister Virginia, with numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, and in-laws both near and far who were dear to his heart. Family and friends

are invited to gather at St. Stephen Lutheran Church (8400 France Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431) for a celebration of Jim's life on January 20th, 2023 (10:00 am visitation, 11:00 am service, and reception to follow). In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities (Department of Donor Services. 376 Western Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55103. Phone 651-789-7558).