



## Mr. William Raymond Swaim, MD

July 14, 1932 - December 12, 2019

Swaim, M.D., William Raymond Born 7/14/32 in Eveleth, MN, passed away peacefully 12/12/19. His loving compassionate Christian soul was a reflection of his faith in Jesus Christ to his family and friends. An ordained elder at age 26, service in his church was a priority all of his servant life (it is in dying that we are born to eternal life). He will be remembered for his wonderful, gentle disposition, intellect, and enthusiasm for life. Physician (Washington University of Medicine, St. Louis), educator (University of Minnesota School of Medicine), research scientist (over 100 papers), entrepreneur (co-founder of Kormed, Inc.), inventor (bone marrow biopsy device with unaltered marrow architecture), patent holder, soloist, pianist, and lecturer. He was compassionate, kind, generous beyond measure, and will be missed by all. His children were raised with love and patience. He took great pride and joy with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren's accomplishments. Music brought him and his wife (MaryEllen Dorothy Hegg) together in junior high school and continued to be an important part of their 57-year marriage. She was an accomplished pianist and flutist and graduated Valedictorian from Duluth Central High School in 1950. He shared with her a passion for vocal and piano music, reading (history), flowers, genealogy, traveling, art and the theater. Charitable activities filled their lives. The family traveled extensively which included more than 30 years in Hana, Maui, Hawaii, which was a special winter retreat with aloha friends. He was forever thankful to the Marshall H. and Nellie Memorial fund in Duluth Minnesota for awarding him

the Alworth Scholarship. This made it possible to graduate from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN with honors and thanks to the Danforth Foundation in St. Louis, MO for providing him with a full 4-year scholarship to Washington University School of Medicine where he obtained his M.D. degree. He interned at the Anchor Hospital in St. Paul, MN and completed a residency in Medicine at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He was then awarded a 3-year research clinical investigator-ship grant from the Veterans Administration. He then joined the University of Minnesota Medical faculty where he taught at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine for over 50 years. He was Chief of Hematology and Coagulation Medicine at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis, and a clinical pathologist. He was preceded in death by his wife, MaryEllen Dorothy Hegg of blessed memory, father, William Ray Swaim and mother, Aili Mathilda Newman, two sisters; Carol Patricia Quinn and Marlene Beverly Johnson. He is survived by his four children; William (Bonny), Rebecca (Jeff), Steven, M.D. (Jodi), and Paul; seven grandchildren, Jesse (Rebekah), Gregory (Leah), Betsy, Trevor, Michael, Olivia, and Matthew; and five great grandchildren; Henry, Harvey, Elsie, Onni and Will. He is also survived by his former Central High School classmate and loving companion for the last 10 years of his life, Shana Lowitz (Labovitz) and her family. The family wishes to extend our special thanks to family and friends for their prayers. Prayers are answered. In his words: go from "strength to strength" as you pursue life's great adventure. VISITATION: Will be held at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel, 5000 W. 50th & Hwy. 100, Edina, MN 55436 on Saturday, December 21st from 8:30am 11:00am, and Interment will follow at Forest Hills Cemetery, Duluth, at 3:30pm with friends of the family welcome to attend. Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel (952) 920-3996. Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery (Duluth)

2516 Woodland Ave  
Duluth, MN 55803

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ 12/27/19

*Dear Family of Dr. Swaim,*

*I wanted to share a few thoughts with you about the impact this man had on me both personally and professionally. I first met Dr. Swaim as a kid living in Fort Snelling (one of Joyce and Fred Hermann's daughters). However, I really did not "know" him until many years later when I became a nurse at the Mpls VAMC.*

*I cannot recall when we first began working together but what I do remember is every interaction I had with him was one of kindness, genuine interest and a vast array of knowledge. He served as a participating member of root cause analysis (when something adverse occurred, or nearly occurred, a team dissected what transpired, determine the system root cause and made recommendations for future improvement.*

*But the largest, wide reaching impact was our joint project on TED stockings vs compression stockings. This study and outcome changed practice habits throughout the state (and hopefully beyond). This was part of a root cause analysis whereby a patient had a major injury (at another VA hospital) from using TED stockings (which are to be used in the recumbent immobile patient to help prevent blood clots vs the compression stockings used to address extremity swelling). The elastic banding had caused deep soft tissue injury. This led us to an investigation throughout the entire medical center- we identified patients using TEDs, reviewed the medical record as to WHY they were using these stockings, and then went to the bedside and examined each patient individually for skin integrity, presence of pulses, and mobility.*

*What stands out in my mind is his "hands on" approach- he literally helped remove patient stockings, conversed with each patient about our study and helped me compile our results, create staff education (including a clip of a venogram), and write a medical center policy.*

*There are very few attending physicians who would have taken the time or made the effort as an “add on” responsibility to start and complete a project to this length.*

*Dr. Swaim ALWAYS treated everyone, regardless of status, as an equal. His listening and communication skills were sincere and focused. I never saw him lose his temper, raise his voice, or lose patience.*

*My mom, Joyce Hermann remembers Bill as the man who spoke at the Richfield School Board or PTA meeting (not sure which), hen we were treated as second class citizens attending Richfield. She recalls him standing up and proudly stating that the children of residents at Fort Snelling were kids of Physicians and Professional working for the VA in either a clinical setting or administrative setting. She was so proud of him and how he so well-articulated our standing withing the community. (I don't know if you remember, but when kids from Richfield asked where we lived and we responded Fort Snelling, I was asked if there were guards to get in and Indians living there).*

*So just to summarizing, I treasured my acquaintance with Dr. Swaim for both his kindness and knowledge. He truly will be missed by all that were privileged to know him.*

*Linda Kraemer  
160 and 164 Taylor Ave.*

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**linda kraemer** - December 27, 2019 at 01:20 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mr. William Raymond Swaim, MD.*



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December 19, 2019 at 06:47 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Raymond Swaim, MD.*



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December 18, 2019 at 02:28 PM