



Dr. Maurice R. Dewey

October 24, 1932 - January 16, 2017

Maurice Robert Dewey, affectionately called “Doc,” “Dad,” or, simply, Maurie by those who knew and loved him, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 16, 2017, at the age of 84, surrounded by family and friends.

A paragon of the “self-made man,” Maurie lived his formative years in Massena and, later, Auburn, NY, during the Great Depression and WWII Eras. He lost both parents, Harold and Irene, at a young age, his mother passing early in his childhood, his father when Maurie was seventeen. Subsequent summers were spent painting houses with his brothers and academic years in work-study programs to support a college education. His efforts earned him an undergraduate degree from Harpur College and, at the insistence of Harpur professors who recognized his intellectual giftedness, a graduate degree from Syracuse University Medical School. Dr. Dewey practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology for over forty-five years; he truly loved his profession, his patients, and their families, understanding well what an incredible gift it was to play a role in bringing life into the world and joy into people’s lives.

Maurie had, quite literally, thousands of women who loved him – understandable given his career in OB-GYN and the love and care he provided his patients. His heart was stolen, however, by the love of his life – a captivating young nurse named Pamela Johnstone. Maurie and Pam wed in 1961 and remained happily in love through fifty-six years of marriage.

Although each pales in comparison to that which he shared with his “Honey,” Pam, Maurie had many other loves. He felt deep affection and enormous appreciation for his children and grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and community, and did all he could to express those feelings in every imaginable – often creative – way. He also loved comic art, birdwatching, history, painting lead circus and zoo figures for his grandchildren, gift-giving and donating to his favorite charities, collecting antiques, Classical and Big Band music, college football, and gardening. His father’s influence inspired a lifelong love of nature and camping. He enjoyed time outdoors, taking-in the surrounding natural world. The naturalist in him led to gardening, planting, and watering the entire Christiana Street neighborhood season after season for decades. He shared his many affections with everyone he knew, and, in doing so, spread the joy and interests he held to countless friends, neighbors, and community members.

Our father came from a long line of strong Congregationalists dating back to Colonial times and, when required to fill-out forms, claimed affiliation with Protestantism. In reality, he grappled with religion and religious faith; however, through efforts to balance life’s stark realities with desire to hold God in his heart, he became a Reformer in his own right. His relationship with God was an honest one. Losing his mother at such a formative age planted seeds of doubt. Losing his father shortly thereafter only fueled those thoughts. He never subscribed to organized religion, yet was able to restore his faith over time by finding God in those things he valued most. In Romanticism fashion, he felt connection to God in nature and in his garden, and loved to spend his time there, meticulously tending with love and care. Similarly, he saw God in the faces and behaviors of those he loved. He believed God existed within us and all around us, and took comfort knowing He approved.

With those sentiments in his heart and soul, Maurie had a gentle way of making everyone feel loved and appreciated. He exuded equal parts

compassion, tenderness, humility, and selflessness, always placing others' needs before his own and doing all he could to help those he cared for in effective, unassuming style. He was a positive, joyful man with an easy, warm smile, quick wit, and a good-humored way of gently teasing just about anyone while, in the same breath, allowing them to feel the love and adoration he held for them in his heart. He perfected the art of giving, and will long be remembered for his genuinely affectionate, caring nature and for his endless generosity and kindness.

Each of us will, for a short while, be lost without him. We will miss his contagious smile, his corny jokes and quips, his gentle warmth, and the purity of his love. In time, we will, each in our own way, come to realize the goodness we felt in his presence was simply him reflecting back those positive qualities he recognized in each of us. We will carry him with us always and will forever feel his undying love.

Predeceased by his brothers, Paul, in 1975, and Vernon, in 2001, Maurie was the last of his generation's Dewey boys and also the most prolific. He is survived by his beautifully good-hearted wife, Pamela, their six children, and many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Dayle and his wife, Shelly (nee Hurtubise), and their children, Marley and Elijah; Curtis and his wife, Janette (nee Rhodes) and their children, Jordan, Isaiah, Ethan, Carver, Solé, and Jolie; Seth and his wife, Neva (nee Sanders), and their children, Kira, Cade, and Bryn; Reed and his wife, Greta (nee Maurer), and their children Graham, Ella, Jedidiah, and Wil; Leah Stevens, her husband, Kenny, and their children, Renee, Kenny Jr., and Kayla; Sarah Herlehy and her children, Paige and Trent. Maurie was exceedingly proud of his children and grandchildren. His wishes to be surrounded by loved ones throughout his illness and at the time of his passing were well-delivered.

Major Maurice Dewey served in the 134th Medical Battalion of the New York Army National Guard from 1960 through his Honorable Discharge in 1967. True to form and to his incredible humility, Maurie downplayed his service to country while lauding that of others – past, present, and future. His family’s strong history of military service fostered a deep appreciation for our country, its military, and our veterans. In lieu of flowers, Dr. Dewey’s family hopes you will please consider a donation to a supporting organization, such as the Wounded Warrior Project or Disabled Veterans of America. Maurie would also be most pleased were friends to consider donating locally, specifically to the Tonawanda Council on the Arts (TCA) and Carnegie Art Center

A memorial “Block Party” celebration of Dr. Dewey’s life will be held in July, 22, 2017 and will be coordinated with a month-long Comic Art Exhibit at the TCA. All will be welcome.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ I’m reading this in late October, 2023, just past what would have been Dr. Dewey’s 91st birthday. Like so many others have expressed, I am alive (at 75) because of his remarkable diagnostic abilities and then careful follow-up. I will always remember his candid approach, his kindness, & his sense of humor. Dr. Schulman delivered my 2nd child, and I adored him too. But once Dr. Dewey saw me in distress later on, he was really my primary physician for the rest of the time I lived in the Buffalo area. We patients were so blessed by his care & skills, and that of the entire practice. RIP, Good Doc

Rev Robin Lostetter (formerly Pearce) - October 28, 2023 at 07:51 PM

LY

“ I will never forget him. He set the standard for what a physician should be. A great person, a true doctor, an incredible diagnostician, a loving humorous dedicated man. There is no one like him. He delivered my children, kept me safe, and made me feel taken care of. I am truly sorry. Don't know why I searched for him today. I hope he is peaceful and at rest, but God should keep him busy. I will never forget the letter he sent when he retired. Love Lisa Yonkin

Lisa Yonkin - August 22, 2017 at 10:50 AM

SA

“ I don't know what made me search for this wonderful man online today but I am beyond saddened to learn of his passing. I don't even know where to begin here. This man saved my life. I'd walked around with cancer for nearly three years. He not only found it, but he did my surgery and he wasn't even a surgeon. I was 33 (62 now) and I am alive today because of him.

He had to have been the kindest and most down to earth doctor I'd ever known. His concern was so genuine. His caring beyond the call of duty. He became more than just a doctor to me. I made a cake for his family, he would call just to find out if I was okay.

Dr. Dewey, I will never forget you. Thank you for my life....

Sharon Avins - February 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dr. Dewey was the OBGYN I saw to confirm my first pregnancy in 1969. He was my favorite and I loved him from that moment on! He and the others remained my doctors for many years. Always a big smile and caring manner. Thank you for the heartfelt tribute in the Buffalo News and sharing him with so many women over the years. Godspeed, Doctor Dewey.

Barbara Rose

Barbara Rose - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I was a patient at Dewey, Patterson, Schulman & Foote for many years. Dr. Dewey was always my 'favorite'. When our first child was born in August of 1968, my husband was in Vietnam. Dr. Dewey was on call and not only met me at the hospital but stayed with me through my entire labor. My Mother had brought me in and she was as grateful as I was (perhaps more) for this great kindness! He was a wonderful Doctor and an even better man.

Sue Hemedinger - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ I am so incredibly sorry to hear of Dr. Dewey's passing. He delivered all 3 of my children now age 23, 21 and 15. Our 15 year old Olivia was one of his last deliveries. Thank God he was there for me because, if not for him, I would not be here to celebrate the accomplishments of my children and see the birth of our 16 month old grandson. It was he who diagnosed a life-threatening illness just 2 weeks after her birth. It is because of him that we are a family in every sense of the word. What a wonderful man. I think of him often but especially 4 times a year-my children's birthdays and December 19th, the anniversary of that life saving moment. We had given him a lilac bush to bloom in spring in honor of all the families he helped bring together. I hope it continues to bloom and grow in his memory. How fortunate you all are to call him husband, father and grandpa. With my deepest gratitude and condolences.

Heather Alessi - January 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Very sad to hear of Dr. Dewey passing. I will never forget, when my son was born at Children hospital. I was getting ready to go home with my new born son, and we were having a snow storm, I lived in Tonawanda at the time, and Dr. Dewey offered to drive us home if my husband was unable to get to the hospital. I will keep him and his family in my prayers.*

Rosalie frawley - January 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

P(

“ *This was the best obituary I've ever read!! Although I still can't believe he's gone!! My heart is broken along with all of yours. I am here if there's anything I can do to help. Thoughts & Prayers... I love you forever Dad!!!*

Pam Aaron (Guarino) - January 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *My beloved friend, forever in my heart. I will miss you forever and ever.*

Love always, Marion

Marion Guarino - January 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Dewey sincere condolences going out to Pam and family !! Keeping you in our prayers during this difficult time. RIP Maurie.*

Bill & Glenda Ritchie - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM