



Dr. Lionel "Bill" Ganshirt

November 1, 1931 - July 31, 2020

Dr. Lionel "Bill" Ganshirt, age 88, a longtime Lake Forest resident, passed away Friday, July 31, 2020. Lionel William "Bill" Ganshirt was born on November 1, 1931 in Monroe, Wisconsin. The family owned a 250-acre farm in northwestern Illinois. He was the youngest of three boys. He attended a one-room school house for grades 1-8 with one teacher for all the students. The farm was lost in 1938 during the Great Depression and the family moved to Freeport, Illinois. He completed Catholic grade school and high school at Aquin. He received a scholastic and athletic scholarship to Loras College and completed his studies in three years, graduating Summa Cum Laude. During his college years he was a varsity athlete in baseball, basketball and tennis. He received an invite to play Major League Baseball but turned it down to attend medical school at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, where he graduated from Cum Laude. On May 5, 1956, he married his sweetheart, Mary Lou Pierce. He began his residency in general surgery at Cook County Hospital and was drafted into the Air Force during his second year. He was sent to a SAC Air Force Hospital in Madrid, Spain. It was there that he was introduced to his second love, golf. After two years in Spain he returned to complete his residency and then a fellowship in vascular surgery at Hines, VA Hospital. Upon graduation he joined the Surgeons Group at Lake Forest Hospital becoming the first vascular surgeon in Lake County. He continued to teach at Loyola and the VA for the next 10 years. During his tenure at Lake Forest Hospital, he served as President of the Medical Staff, Chairman of the

Department of Surgery, and President of the Lake County Medical Society. An avid golfer, he was a member at Shoreacres country club for over 50 years. He first shot his age when he was 70; he shot 69. He was active at St. Mary Church and volunteered for many groups in Lake Forest. He is preceded in death by his wife Mary Lou Ganshirt. He is survived by his children, Catherine Morlock (Paul), Stephen Ganshirt (Linda) and Jennifer Foley (Mike), and grandchildren Maggie Burros (Morlock), Michael and James Morlock, Lauren Lantero (Ganshirt), Ryan and Graham Ganshirt, Jack and Ella Foley.

A private family service will be held due to the Covid pandemic. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Northwestern Memorial Foundation, 541 North Fairbanks Court, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Please include "Dr. Lionel Ganshirt" in the memo line. Donations can also be made online at giving.nm.org/lfh. Your gift will support patient care at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital.

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *Dr. Ganshirt was an excellent surgeon, a man of God, and a very dear friend. I am thankful for every precious day that I was privileged to be with him.*

Donald M. Coder, MD, FACS - July 15, 2021 at 11:44 AM

DC

I agree.

Donald M. Coder - January 31, 2022 at 09:28 AM

DC

“ *Dr. Ganshirt was an excellent surgeon, a true believer, and a very close friend of mine. I continue to miss him.*

Donald M. Coder, MD, PhD, FACS

Donald M. Coder - May 12, 2021 at 09:37 AM

DM

Dr. Ganshirt was a brilliant surgeon and very close friend. I miss him very much. my condolences to MARY Lou.

Donald M.Coder - June 10, 2021 at 04:32 PM

DM

Yes indeed!

Donald M.Coder - June 10, 2021 at 04:33 PM

DC

I agree, totally!

Donald M. Coder. January 20, 2022

Donald M. Coder - January 20, 2022 at 09:26 AM

RT

“ Dr. Ganshirt literally saved my father's life back in 1986 as a surgeon. No words to describe the gratitude we have for him. All the best,

Robert Troxel

Robert Troxel - August 12, 2020 at 07:59 AM

BG

“ A great pal to my family in so many ways and an outstanding gentleman, Dr. Ganshirt was the personification of "the good doctor": an accomplished professional with a kind heart toward all. With deepest sympathy to his family and to all who had the privilege of knowing him, Dr. Bernice E. Gallagher

Bernice E. Gallagher - August 04, 2020 at 09:24 AM

SC

My dear doctor. I loved sitting behind you and your loving wife at church. You were the kindest, gentle, doctor to my mother and to my husband. And to many. But most importantly you were my dearest friend. God Bless your family. Shirley Coppi

shirley coppi - August 09, 2020 at 09:40 AM

SP

I worked with Dr. Ganshirt in the Operating Room at Lake Forest Hospital for 22 years, He was one of the best surgeons and so nice to work with even in the toughest circumstances. I am so sorry to hear this news. My condolences to his family and friends. ❤️

Sandy Prouty - August 11, 2020 at 10:27 PM

JB

Dr. Ganshirt, was the kindest, gentlest person I have every met I worked with you for 30 years at Lake Forest Hospital and had the utmost admiration and respect for you. You were one of the finest doctors and surgeons I ever worked with. May our Lord wrap his loving arms around your family and grant them the peace only he can.

Janis Brown - August 12, 2020 at 08:02 PM

KB

*I worked with Dr. Ganshirt at LFH as well for 20 years. Mostly I assisted him in the Minor Surgery Room in Outpatient. Such a wonderful surgeon and he was most definitely my favorite Doctor at LFH. Our condolences to his family.
Kathy and Scott Braunlich*

Kathy Braunlich - August 17, 2020 at 01:27 PM

MB

We loved Dr. Ganshirt and his family, Many happy memories!

mary ann bloom - September 25, 2020 at 09:52 PM

DC

These comments are all very appropriate.

Donald M. Coder - May 12, 2021 at 09:40 AM

DC

*I agree with all of these comments.
George Smith, Jr.*

Donald M. Coder - May 12, 2021 at 09:41 AM

MM

Dr. Ganshirt is greatly missed by all of us.

Mickey Mouse - May 16, 2021 at 02:14 PM

DF

I heartily agree with all of these comments!

Donald M. Coder, MD, FACS - July 15, 2021 at 11:48 AM