



Dr. Francis C Nichols

July 2, 2021

Francis Charles Nichols, Jr., M.D. entered eternal life on July 2, 2021, in his ninety-fourth year from his home in Oradell, N.J. Born in Montclair, N.J. on August 17, 1927, Francis was the son of Francis C. and Loyola E. Nichols. Francis grew up in Wood-Ridge, N.J. and was a graduate of St. Mary's High School, Rutherford, N.J. He was active in Boy Scouts at Corpus Christi Church, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. and earned his Eagle Scout rank. He served in the United States Navy from 1945 to 1947. Upon completion of his WW II Naval service, Francis earned his college degree from Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH and received his medical degree in 1952 from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, IL. Following his internship at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL, he did his surgical residency at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN from 1954 to 1958. While at Mayo Clinic he completed his Masters in Surgery from the University of Minnesota.

During his time in Minnesota, his life forever changed when he met and ultimately married his "best friend for life" Rita Mary Conzemius on July 6, 1957. The couple moved to New Jersey in 1958 where Francis became a respected general and thoracic surgeon for over 40 years at Hackensack Hospital, now Hackensack University Medical Center. The consummate surgeon and physician, he loved his profession and was unwavering in his commitment to his patients. While at Hackensack Hospital, in addition to his general surgery responsibilities, he served as the Chief of the Division of

Thoracic Surgery. He treasured teaching young surgeons and was the recipient of the surgical Teacher of the Year award on numerous occasions. He was truly proud of his many years of dedicated service on the Hospital Board of Governors and participating in Hackensack Hospital's evolution from a community hospital to a University Medical Center.

Francis and Rita lived many years first in his hometown of Wood-Ridge and then Oradell, N.J. raising their eight children. He was the quintessential Catholic gentleman and a decades-long parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Wood-Ridge, N.J. and then Church of the Assumption, Emerson, N.J. His love for Notre Dame football was steadfast and trips to South Bend always special. A longstanding member of the Hackensack Golf Club, Francis spent many enjoyable years playing golf with Rita, his children, and close friends. He treasured the time he and Rita spent at their vacation house on Long Beach Island with children and grandchildren.

Predeceased by his sister, Loyola Marie Gleason, Francis is survived by his loving wife of almost 64 years, Rita, his devoted children Francis C. (Judy) Nichols, George (Dorothy) Nichols, Rita (Kevin) Danylchuk, Margaret (Mark) Degand, Harold F. Nichols, Brian (Marilyn) Nichols, Craig (Robin) Nichols, and Linda (Christopher) Marino. He also leaves his 16 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Visitation will be held at the Volk Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, N.J. on Tuesday, July 13th from 4-8 P.M. A funeral Mass celebrating his life will be Wednesday, July 14th at 10 A.M., Church of the Assumption, 29 Jefferson Ave., Emerson, N.J. 07630. Interment to follow at Maryrest Cemetery, 770 Darlington Avenue, Mahwah, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name to Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation would be appreciated.

Click Here to Donate to the Hackensack University Medical Center
Foundation (https://give.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/site/Donation2;jsessionid=00000000.app20052a?df_id=1600&mfc_pref=T&1600.donation=form1&NONCE_TOKEN=F2D00F38BD9AFE407777EBB6189D014)

Cemetery Details

Maryrest Cemetery

770 Darlington Avenue
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL 14. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Church of the Assumption
29 Jefferson Street
Emerson, NJ 07630

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Francis C Nichols*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Dr. Francis C Nichols*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Dr. Francis C Nichols*

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM



“ *My Sincere Condolences to the entire Nichols Family at this most sorrowful time. May God Bless all of you and keep you in His care with Strength, Peace and Love.*

Sincerely

Barbara A. Cope

Radiology

HUMC

Barbara A. Cope - July 17, 2021 at 09:41 PM

BC

“ I will always remember and never forget someone as special as Dr. Nichols. Working as a Radiologic Technologist at Hackensack Hospital many times we worked with the surgeons in the OR. We all were always so pleased when we heard we would be working with Dr. Nichols. He truly was a Scholar and a Gentleman and a phenomenal teacher. Dr. Nichols performed 3 surgeries on my Mom and two on my Dad and I personally will always remember how he showed his sincere kindness to me and my family at our most needed time. When you are sitting with your Dad in ICU 10 o'clock at night with all the lights dimmed and Dr. Nichols walks in to check on his patient at that hour only tears of gratitude come to your eyes and you just say "Thank You". He always assured you that all would be well. Dr. Nichols was so respected by all his colleagues, patients and friends with a beautiful admiration. . We will keep him in our hearts forever and we Thank God for all he was and for the beautiful life he lived and shared with his family, co workers and friends. Rest in Peace Dr. Nichols always and forever.

Love

Barbara A. Cope

Barbara A. Cope - July 17, 2021 at 08:46 PM

SP

“ It is with immense sadness that I learned of the passing of Dr. Nichols. Dr. Nichols' accomplishments are vast, but I will always remember him as a master surgeon, not only cited but also a scholar, educator, and gentleman. Over his approximately 45-year career, Dr. Nichols has cured the illnesses, relieved the suffering, and improved the lives of tens of thousands of people. In addition to these immense contributions to our community, his legacy will also be of the countless surgery residents he has educated, trained, and mentored. Although Dr. Nichols has left us, he will live forever through his trainees that have gone on to become surgeons who, in our, use the skills and techniques taught to them by Dr. Nichols to train other surgeons. This unbroken chain amplifies Dr. Nichols' unquantifiable contribution to the health and well-being of society and of future generations of parents. Dr. Nichols had started his surgical practice from scratch, and through confidence in his abilities, hard work, determination, high quality surgical care, and dedication to his patients he built his practice into the premier surgical practice in the region. He was also responsible, in large part, for transforming Hackensack Hospital from a small town hospital to a large tertiary care, regional university medical center. Hackensack University Medical Center is now the flagship hospital of the largest hospital network in NJ. The passing of a surgeon of such great esteem, achievement and influence has given me pause to reflect upon my own life and career. I had the great fortune and honor of going to Dr. Nichols in 2000 when he hired me as a young surgeon, having just graduated from my Fellowship training. There aren't many surgeons out of training that are given the opportunity of joining a master surgeon. I scrubbed in on as many of his surgeries as I could. Dr. Nichols and I did our surgery residencies in the Midwest, he at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and I at Northwestern in Chicago, so we were both trained in the "Midwestern style" of surgery but there was still more that I could learn from watching him perform surgery. I loved to watch him operate. He was a truly gifted surgeon and always in command of his operations. There were no wasted movements, and every movement was purposeful. He was always calm, never hurried, and I never saw him flustered no matter

how difficult or dire the situation. And Dr. Nichols was fearless. No operation, illness, or patient's condition was too daunting for him. I learned so much from Dr. Nichols and I cherish the two years we were colleagues before his retirement from surgery. He was a mentor to me, and he always treated me with the utmost respect and dignity. Even after his retirement, I would sometimes call him for his advice or opinion, when I encountered difficult situations, on the management of a patient or of a surgery. Sometimes I called him right from the operating room and late at night. He was never inconvenienced by my calls. Dr. Nichols truly loved his profession and his craft, and he loved to assist and provide advice to other surgeons. I will never forget his generous, sage advice whenever I called him to help me give my patients the best care possible. I will forever be honored that Dr. Nichols chose me to join his practice, and fortunate that he passed his practice on to me. His surgical practice continues on its 63rd year and I will pass on the practice to my talented younger partners when I retire, and Dr. Nichol's practice will continue to live on. I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Nichols, one that I will never be able to repay. And I know I will never be able to replace Dr. Nichols, but what I have tried to do, and will continue to do, is maintain the honor, dignity, and integrity of what lives on as Dr. Nichols' legacy. God bless you and rest in peace Dr. Nichols. While you lived, God was with you. Now, you are with God. Stephen G. Pereira, M.D.

Stephen Pereira - July 14, 2021 at 11:10 AM

LH

“ *Louisa Hodel lit a candle in memory of Dr. Francis C Nichols*



Louisa Hodel - July 11, 2021 at 12:33 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 09:07 PM

KW

He was truly a wonderful human being. He was kind, gentle and compassionate. He saved my life when I was diagnosed with breast cancer 35 years ago. He will be sorely missed. I have never forgotten him. We both grew up in Wood-Ridge. Fondly, Kathleen Fennell Warneck

Kathleen F. Warneck - July 11, 2021 at 11:23 AM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 09:06 PM

LN

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LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 09:05 PM

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Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 09:03 PM

LN

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Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 08:59 PM

LN

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Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 08:58 PM

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LN

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Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 08:56 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 08:55 PM

VJ

“ Vicki Jerlinski lit a candle in memory of Dr. Francis C Nichols



Vicki Jerlinski - July 09, 2021 at 02:27 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 12:40 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 12:39 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Nichols-Marino - July 09, 2021 at 11:44 AM

JM

“ *Not many like him. His skills were matched by his grace and elegance. A role model for everyone.*

John Andronaco, MD - July 08, 2021 at 04:03 PM

MC

“ I had the tremendous privilege to work with Dr. Nichols in the OR at Hackensack Hospital. He was an amazing surgeon and teacher and a gentleman to boot. He could do with 2 instruments what would take others a basket full to do. Working with him was always a pleasure. He would often make a point to the residents by showing how valuable their scrub nurse was. And he always did it with a twinkle in his eye. I am saddened to hear of his passing but know he had a wonderful life. He helped many patients, including my mother, and was blessed with a loving family. I know St. Peter has welcomed him with open arms through those Pearly Gates! Because as always, he was ‘supha good’! Rest in Peace Dr. Nichols! 💕💕

Mary Helen Corrado - July 08, 2021 at 01:19 PM

JG

“ I am very devastated to hear of the passing of a wonderful neighbor and good friend Dr Francis Nichols my condolences to the entire family 🙏❤️ Love Jacquie

Jacqueline Gewertz - July 04, 2021 at 07:52 AM