



Dr. Walter A. Topinka

September 27, 1924 - December 1, 2011

Walter A. Topinka, M.D.

Walter Topinka passed away December 1st, peacefully in his home in Moses Lake, WA, surrounded by his family. Born October 27, 1924 in Cleveland, Ohio to Peter and Johanna Topinka, he was the youngest of 3 siblings. He spent his youth growing up in Cleveland, with an interest in building and driving fast cars. A World War II veteran, Walter entered the Navy during the war as an electronics technician and specialized in radar and radio transmission. After the war he married his sweetheart, Mary Ellen Hunt, and attended medical school at Ohio State University, graduating in the field of Ophthalmology in 1952. Walter and Mary spent a year of medical residency in Panama City, Panama, at Gorgus Hospital. In Panama they shared a very special time learning to dive, looking for underwater treasure and making life-long friends. After residency they headed west to Seattle, where they settled in the Normandy Park area of South King County. Walter established a thriving medical practice as an Ophthalmologist in the Burien area and was a distinguished physician for over 30 years. Walter retired in the late 80's and spent time traveling to Africa, Alaska, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and other destinations. He loved to camp, fish, hunt, rock hunt and experience the great outdoors. He spent his final years in Moses Lake, Washington. He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Mary Topinka, sons Wayne Topinka of Kent and Alan (Cindy) Topinka of Kirkland and two grandchildren, Madeline and Nicholas.

Tribute Wall



“ My father, Art Wilson was one of the three ophthalmologists who made up the Burien Eye Clinic with Walt Topinka and Bob Groth. The passing of Dr. Topinka is the end of such a special era. I grew up going to see my dad and his two colleagues at the clinic and have wonderful memories of Dr. Topinka and his staff. He always had a twinkle in his eye as he teased me. I loved seeing him and being around the staff at the clinic. It is a significant part of my life and it is a memory I will treasure. I hope the three eye-docs are hanging out once again...
Heather Wilson Merry

April 15, 2012 at 05:01 PM



“ I was a patient years ago.
James E. Larson

January 10, 2012 at 02:36 PM



“ Rest in Peace Uncle Walter, you are sorely missed. You were a kind gentle soul who always had a kind word to say. There are so many memories I have shared with my kids. I'm so sorry they were never able to meet you. I'll never forget you looking for logs over the side of your boat. You will always hold a special place in my heart.
Lori Ezzo McCaghren and Family

December 15, 2011 at 08:45 AM



“ *Such wonderful memories we have of Walter. He always brought out the best in a person and treated each person with respect. We will miss him and all his kindness to our family. Eldon and Walt had a true bond of friendship and enjoyed good times hunting and fishing. We are thinking of his family at this time and know he will be missed. Beverly and Eldon Engel##imported-begin##Eldon and Beverly Engel##imported-end##*

December 13, 2011 at 04:40 PM



“ *As we go thru life you meet people on the way, that leave a mark in your life. Doctor Topinka was a person you will always remember. Since his retirement as I drove by his office, I would always remember his advice "Drink good red wine and use good Olive Oil. He will always be remembered by the people he served as their Doctor. I was fortunate that I was one of his patients. My thoughts and prayers are with his Family as I drive by his Office.*

Pat Coluccio##imported-begin##Pat Coluccio##imported-end##

December 12, 2011 at 08:02 PM



“ We recently learned of Walts' passing. So very sorry to hear the news.

He certainly lived a wonderful life.

My father so enjoyed the long lasting friendship they shared.

Our condolences to Mary Ellen and the rest of the family.

If there is anything we can do, please let us know.

He will certainly be missed.

God Bless,

The Lund Family##imported-begin##The Lund Family##imported-end##

December 11, 2011 at 08:41 PM



“ *My dad was reading, learning and dreaming to the end. There were many things he was still planning to do but unfortunately his body just gave up. As I began the difficult process of going through his personal items after his passing, I was struck by how many interests and experiences he had over his life. I found lists of information and research he had assembled in preparation for new adventures he was yet to make. I learned many things about him that do not get transmitted in day to day life. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Alan Topinka##imported-end##*

December 11, 2011 at 07:56 PM



“ Walt was the first Opthomologist to come to the Burien Area and really was one of the first specialist to come to our area. I had a long history of patient referrals to his wonderful care. He was especially good with chilren with eye alignment problems. We were professional friends for all his years in practice. When he retired I sorely missed his expertise for telephone consultations on my patients with eye problems. Good bye Walt, you were one of the finest##imported-begin##Alan L W Gunsul, MD##imported-end##

December 11, 2011 at 05:19 PM



“ My father, Gordon Stringham, and I were patients of Dr. Topinka. Dad passed on December 23, 2010. Your family should know how much we appreciated knowing the doctor. Our family extends our sympathies at this time.##imported-begin##Dona (Stringham) McGowan##imported-end##

December 10, 2011 at 02:18 PM



“ I have great memories of Dr. Topinka, always a twinkle in his eye and a sense of fun! He seemed to live life to the fullest and really enjoy the people and experiences around him. My parents Eldon and Beverly had a lot of fun with him and Mary Ellen. They especially had a great time in Africa! I am sorry about his passing, but I know that he lived a wonderful life. God's blessings to each of you in this time of remembering and thankfulness for a life well-lived and a good man.##imported-begin##Trisha Engel Wirta##imported-end##

December 10, 2011 at 12:33 PM



“ I'll miss you grandpa, you're in a better place now. Love you.##imported-begin##Madeline Topinka##imported-end##

December 10, 2011 at 11:28 AM



“ Our condolences along with our prayers are with all of the Topinka family. One last trip for a remarkable man. Joyous song surely sounded at his arrival in Heaven.##imported-begin##Jim & Teresa Cazalot##imported-end##

December 09, 2011 at 06:11 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Enoch Rowland and Dr. Roger Larson##imported-end##

December 09, 2011 at 05:54 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Dr. Topinka at Burien General Hospital. I was the evening charge nurse on Pediatrics, so did many rounds with him on his little strabisimus patients. He was always a joy to work with and had a great sense of humor. My family and I were also a patients of his, I having been fitted for my first contact lenses, as were many of the other BGH nurses. I have thought of him many times since his retirement and will always have fond memories of him. God be with each of you now and in the future.##imported-begin##Marilyn Silkworth RN##imported-end##

December 08, 2011 at 11:56 PM



“ Our sincerest condolences to the Topinka family. Walter was my eye doctor and also a friend. He was special with people and fun to be around. I'll never forget the time he came to the office late at night to attend to my injury. I received a handball directly in my eye during a game at the WAC and was in need of immediate attention. Walter came. He was one great man and will be sorely missed. Dr. Roy Velling##imported-begin##Roy Velling##imported-end##

December 08, 2011 at 05:10 PM



“ We have known Walt since 1972 when he became our eye doctor in Burien. He was an understanding and compassionate man who listened to his patients. In June, 1988, we knew him in a different way when his youngest son, Alan, married our youngest daughter, Cindy. We've loved Alan as if he were our own son and have enjoyed sharing our grandchildren. Karen and Doug Miller, Hansville, WA##imported-begin##Karen and Doug Miller##imported-end##

December 08, 2011 at 04:36 PM



“ I have never met a more educated person in my entire life! Lucky for me, Dr. Walter Topinka is my grandfather and will always be my grandfather. I will never forget the person who gave me the courage to carry on and not give up on myself. I love you Grandpa.##imported-begin##Nick Topinka##imported-end##

December 07, 2011 at 11:51 PM



“ *Dr. Topinka was my eye doc from 1959-1975. I was a little 6 year old near sighted boy who could'nt make out anything on the chalkbd at St Francis grade school. Well Dr T would soon take care of that. With a wave of his magic instruments the world came into perfect view. of course i was self conscious about my new 'coke-bottle' glasses and so the first couple of mornings on my way to school i would hide my glasses in the mailbox. That didn't last long. Dr Topinka made eye appts a fun experience. He had fake spiders up in the corner of the exam room so you would look up when he needed you to. Also for some reason he would toss his own glasses across the exam room floor...perhaps to keep my attention. The bottom line is about this man is that he liked kids, cared about his pateints, had a ton of personality and made me laugh and feel comfortable every time i would visit his office up on anbaum. I did not know him outside of his practice but i can only imagine what a great father and husband he must have been. One other thing i must pay tribute to him is later in my life i was living in greeley, colorado and was experiencing some vision problems. I wrote to Dr Topinka for advice and my old prescription. Within a short time he wrote me back an extensive letter of advice along w my prescription. Like i said, he cared about his patients, current or otherwise. God rest the soul of Walt. ---Phil Segadelli###imported-begin###Phil Segadelli###imported-end###*

December 07, 2011 at 11:20 PM



“ **GODSPEED WALTER###imported-begin###DON
MERKELEY###imported-end###**

December 07, 2011 at 01:15 PM



“ Our thoughts are with the entire Topinka family. We've always enjoyed visiting with Walt & Mary Ellen & hearing about all their travels through the years. He spoke a lot about the labradore retrievers that he used to have & one in particular that used to clear the backyard fence before Walt could back out of the driveway. We will miss Walt. ##imported-begin## Vicki & Dennis Hill ##imported-end##

December 02, 2011 at 09:52 PM