



Dr. WILLIAM FURST OBITUARY

SAN ANTONIO - Dr. William "Bill" Dunton Rush Furst, born January 7, 1925, left this world on the evening of May 1, 2018, at the age of 93 after fracturing his hip and suffering a brief illness. He was surrounded by his adoring family. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Patricia Ford Furst. He was a loving father to his children, Ellen Sealy (husband Ed), Dr. William Ford "Biff" Furst, Dr. Edward Dunton "Ned" (wife Bari Furst), Dr. Matthew "Matt" Furst (wife Suzette), and Patricia Ann "Trish" Furst. He was predeceased by his parents, a twin brother who died soon after birth and his older brother, Edward "Ned" Furst of PA.

He was born and raised in Baltimore, MD, to Edward and Helen Furst, where he graduated from Mary and St. Joseph's Catholic Schools in 1943. He then joined the Coast Guard and served in the Navy's U12 program, which was an accelerated medically oriented undergrad program at Duke University from which he graduated in 1945. He subsequently entered Duke University's School of Medicine from which he graduated in 1949. It was during his pediatric rotation in 1951 that he discovered his passion in pediatrics on which he built his professional career. Bill then was called to naval service duty in the Korean War at Quantico and Portsmouth Naval Hospitals. In 1953 he left the service for a pediatric residency at Boston Children's Hospital, where he met and soon married the love of his life, Patricia Ellen Ford, on July 17, 1954. Shortly thereafter, the newlyweds embarked on the greatest adventure of their lives. They headed out to Odessa, the heart of the West Texas oil boom, where he began his Pediatric Practice with his good friend from medical school, Dr. Louie Zang. It was there they would raise their five children and build his esteemed reputation as a pediatrician. He worked tirelessly to treat and care for children, regardless of their ability to pay or the time of night. It was that legacy that endeared him to thousands of grateful young

parents. Their children, "his babies," who he nurtured into adulthood, eventually brought him their own children over the next 40 years.

Bill was instrumental in improving the healthcare for children all over West Texas through his leadership in the AMA, TMA, and particularly through the Texas Perinatal Association. He was descended from venerable medical stock as a descendent of William Rush Dunton Jr., MD, the founder and President of the American Occupational Therapy Association, and Dr. Benjamin Rush of the Revolutionary Army.

Bill sold his Odessa Practice in 1989 and spent 6 months working for the State Health Department and then several more years enjoying traveling as a locum tenen in various parts of the country. He and Pat finally settled down, splitting their time between San Antonio, Texas, and their beloved, "little cabin in the woods" near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Always busy, he took up painting and attended and taught classes at the Academy of Learning in San Antonio. He was an avid reader and writer and always looked optimistically ahead. He had just started reading three books including, War and Peace. He is survived by his wife Pat, 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 7 great

grandchildren and one on the way. His entire family recently celebrated his 93rd birthday and Pat's 90th birthday just two weeks prior to his death. He loved his friends and family and particularly enjoyed going to the Bijou Theatre to see the latest independent films with his old West Texas friends, Ron Teffteeller and Frank Seaman. He was a lifelong "liberal Democrat" who loved discussing politics or anything of substance. He often lamented that it was not necessary for people to be "disagreeable when they disagreed."

Bill was a member of St. Anthony De Padua Catholic Church, where a small family service was held in his honor on May 4th.

Characteristically, he asked "No money be wasted on flowers that could better be used for the poor." The family is most appreciative of the personal care Bill received from Edna Martinez and Norma Martinez. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Children's Miracle Network and the Medical Center Hospital Foundation. As Bill always said, "Peace and love."

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