



Dr. Erich R. Pontasch

April 7, 1957 - December 16, 2019

Dr. Erich Roderick Pontasch passed away at St. Anne's Mercy Hospital on December 16th, 2019, surrounded by his friends and family. He was born in Toledo, Ohio on April 7th, 1957. He was a graduate of St. John's Jesuit High School, The University of Toledo, and the Medical College of Ohio. He completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at St. Vincent's Mercy Medical Center.

Erich went on to have an astonishing 35-year medical career in the city that trained him-- working at Riverside Hospital and St. Anne's Mercy Hospital. During this time, he was named a Summit Achiever by the Toledo Blade in 1987, worked as an on-board physician for Life Flight from 1996-2002, was named Preceptor of the Year by LECOM in 1999, and elected Chief of Staff of St. Anne's Mercy Hospital from 2009-2012, the facility from which he would retire in 2019.

As a clinician, he was a healer with extraordinary clinical aptitude, acted as a mentor for residents, students, and staff, and was a listener to those who needed it most. He was beloved by his coworkers, his patients, and all those who learned under his tutelage.

Outside of the hospital, his enthusiasm for adventure would permeate throughout all aspects of his life. He spent part of his youth visiting his family in Austria (the birthplace of his father), a portion of his 20's backpacking through Europe, and went on to explore New Zealand, the Caribbean, the Rocky Mountains, and many more places with his family and friends. He

played hockey for St. John's and The University of Toledo, where he earned the nickname "E-Man" and was elected team captain. In medical school, he would regularly drive down to Florida after exams, where he would scuba dive, free-dive for lobsters, and visit family and friends. He was an avid skier, dog lover, Red Wings fan, gardener, lover of film and television, and an extraordinary father who would always spend time teaching, listening, and adventuring. He was known to support the endeavours of those around him, imparting a love of life, study, and empathy.

He will be greatly missed by his two sons, Scott and Gregory, his ex-wife Susan, his son-in-law Baldwin, his mother Dolores, and siblings Kurt, Martin, and Elisabeth. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter, and his best friends: Morgan, Tango, and Wilco. His funeral visitation will be Sunday, December 22nd from 11am-4pm at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 West Sylvania Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Tribute Wall

BB

“ I remember grand times at the Pontasch parents home. Swimming at the quarry, watching the boys play hockey. Great family. Your neighbor girl Beverly. Prayers to all the family.

Bev Snyder Bender - December 26, 2019 at 09:09 PM

BR

“ As did many paramedics, I met Dr. Pontasch at Riverside Hospital. When I heard his voice, I was relieved to know that our patients would get the best of care.

Bill Hull, Toledo Fire and Rescue, retir - December 22, 2019 at 10:18 PM

MG

“ I was startled and saddened on reading Erich's obituary today. Erich was one of my most capable and trusted emergency medicine residents in the 1980's.
Please accept my condolences for all Erich's family and friends.
Michael Guinness

Michael Guinness - December 22, 2019 at 09:10 PM

MO

“ I am so saddened to learn of this. An excellent doctor, colleague and man. Condolences to his family.

Michael Oswanski - December 22, 2019 at 07:58 PM

DL

“ Eric was always someone I looked up to and felt privileged to be with! When we were young I started working construction and he thought I had more in me than that so he paid for my first quarter at University of Toledo. So in a way I would have never lived the life I have if it were not for him because it was at university I met my first wife Muntambwa. I have so many good memories of things we did together and I will always cherish those memories!!! My heart goes out to all his family especially Dolores! And my prayers are with them all!!!

Dennis Leck - December 22, 2019 at 01:51 PM

ED

“ I met Dr. Pontasch when I was a volunteer in the Chief of Staff's office for 15 years when St. Anne's opened. He was a very kind physician and saved my life a couple of times. He always had a smile for every one. St. Anne's and the city lost an excellent physician. My deepest sympathy to his family. I am sure he is smiling down on everyone he came in contact with. May he be rewarded in heaven for his service to the community. Eleanore Darmofal. .

Eleanore Darmofal - December 22, 2019 at 09:44 AM

SJ

“ We had the good fortune to get to know Erich through the marriage of our son Baldwin to his son Scott. Several years went by before we actually had the chance to meet. But when we did we didn't just enjoy his wonderful company, but also his generosity and hospitality when he let us stay at his beautiful home during our visit at Thanksgiving, one year ago. We will be eternally thankful for getting this opportunity to spend time with this kind man who so warmly welcomed our son into his family. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.

Sven & Jona - December 22, 2019 at 07:12 AM

KC

“ Scotty and Greg please know how much your dad has meant to so many for so long. Your dad has a special spirit that lives on in all those who interacted with him. We are grateful for the memories and thankful for the time. A beautiful soul will always carry on.

Kristi and Ken Chelucci - December 22, 2019 at 07:02 AM

RM

“ See one, do one, teach one! Your mantra lives on. You were deeply admired. My deepest sympathies to those who will miss you the most.

Dr. Renee P. Mason

Renee Mason-Mazzei - December 21, 2019 at 08:31 AM

MB

*“ Dr. Pontasch was an excellent physician and an equally kind and wonderful man. May Dr. Pontasch rest peacefully in heaven.
Mary (Whitney) Belanger*

Mary (Whitney) Belanger - December 20, 2019 at 01:28 PM

KB

“ On behalf of my daughter Connie Helms, I would like to extend our condolences to Sue and her family on the death of her former husband, Erich. Sue and Connie have been friends since grade school at St. Clement. Since Connie lives out of town, she and all of the Bahna family want Erich’s family to know that we share their grief at his loss. He was such an accomplished physician and person and he will be sorely missed. Our prayers are with all who loved him. Sincerely, Kay Bahna



Kay Bahna - December 20, 2019 at 12:13 PM

MP

“ I remember Erich being a Very Kind Soul when we were kids.He came from a Nice Family.All in a Positive Motion.My condolences to his Family.
Sincerely Michael C. Pezzino

Michael C. Pezzino - December 20, 2019 at 10:56 AM

RM

“ Dr Pontasch saved my husband's life about 1 year ago. He recognized he was in grave condition. He warned my son and myself my husband wasnt going to make it. He whisked him off to a surgeon. In speaking to Dr pontasch. My family were patients of his father. Apple didn't fall far from the tree. Our prayers to the family . Our thanks to the life giver. Ray and Diane Medlin



Ray Medlin - December 20, 2019 at 08:00 AM

ME

“ I remember an older patient coming to ER daily over a few weeks with nothing being wrong with her. Dr. Pontash found out that her husband had recently passed away. He purchased a puppy and took it to her to keep her company. She stopped coming to ER on a daily basis. This is just one of many stories of Erich's kindness that I remember. What a caring man. He will be greatly missed.

Marie Emery - December 19, 2019 at 07:51 PM

 Mar Palazzolo

“ Our family mourns the loss of this great man. We all knew he was so proud and how much he loved his boys and his canine companions. A kind soul, he was always willing to take a minute and catch up when you'd see him. Rest peacefully Erich. We are grateful to have known you and will remember your kindness and friendly smile.

*The Palazzolo Family
Temperance*

Mar Palazzolo - December 19, 2019 at 07:21 PM

RA

You left this world a better place. It was an honor to be in your presence. Always, Rascal Raccoon, Riverside Hospital

Rascal - January 11, 2020 at 01:02 PM

JR

“ He was a great guy who always had a kind word and big smile.

Jen R - December 19, 2019 at 04:01 PM