



Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O.

June 1, 1936 - January 6, 2016

Dr. Douglas P. Vanator, 79, of Olivet died Wednesday, January 6, 2016. He was born June 1, 1936 in Warsaw, IN to Robert and Mary (Parker) Vanator. He received Christ as his personal savior at 8 years of age and was very active in his church. He ministered to others as a Gideon for more than 40 years. Doug served in the Indiana National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves, starting in his high school years.

Doug was a small-town doctor who served his patients as if they were his own family. He moved to Olivet in 1964 and opened his medical practice where he worked until retirement in 2007. It was his desire to be a doctor in the office and a friend on the street. He supported his local community and was always interested in working to find a solution for a problem. He was a long-time Rotary member who was famous as the chairman of the annual Walleye fish fry.

Doug graduated from high school in Claypool, IN in a graduating class of 11 people. His was the first generation in his family to leave the farm and attend college. He strongly believed in education and what could be achieved, using his own life as an example to inspire others. He graduated from Manchester College, taught high school sciences and math for 1 year in Akron, IN and then attended Chicago Osteopathic School of Medicine and received his medical degree in 1963. His wife, Marie, is a Registered Nurse and worked to

put him through medical school. As a professional, Dr. Vanator served as Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery and Chief of OB at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, was on staff at Lansing General, and was an assistant clinical professor at Michigan State University Osteopathic College of Medicine. As a doctor, his favorite thing was delivering babies. He also served as a FAA Medical Examiner and Eaton County Medical Examiner. After his retirement in 2007, he went on three medical mission trips to Mexico.

Doug was never far from his roots growing up on the farm. He was as comfortable on a tractor as he was with his stethoscope. He enjoyed the outdoors. It was not unusual in his early years to fly his Cherokee Six as an air ambulance and later flying his Lance airplane out west or into Canada with his friends and family to hunt or fish. Doug had a gift for fixing things, learning from growing up on a farm.

Doug is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marie; children Carolyn (Larry) Wehr, Jim (Lori) Vanator, John Vanator, and Cathy (Brian) Kelenske; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; brother Gordon Vanator and one nephew. He was preceded in death by son, Charles Vanator; daughter-in-law, Heidi Vanator; and grandchildren, Guy and Jordan Vanator.

Funeral services are Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Charlotte with Pastor Steve Byrens officiating. Visitation is Thursday, January 7, 6-8 PM and Friday, January 8, 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to First Baptist Church of Charlotte or City On A Hill Church in Olivet. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Doug on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery - Warsaw, IN

421 N. Maple Ave.
Warsaw, IN 46580

Previous Events

Funeral Ceremony

JAN 9. 9:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Charlotte
1110 S. Cochran Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O.*

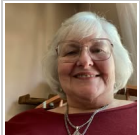


Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 07, 2016 at 04:19 PM

ST

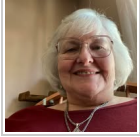
Dear family, my husband, Dean Taylor, has fond memories of his teenage years and going to Narrow Lake either fishing or water skiing with Doctor Vantor. Dean worked on a dairy farm so it was a real treat to get away to the lake. He remembers one time they were skiing and Dr Van fell and ended up having to get stitches in his forehead. Nonetheless when they got together fun times were had by all. Please know our thought and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Suzan Taylor - January 07, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ *Dr. Vanator was as frightening as he was fun. You could always see that he loved what he did & loved his patients too. With one patient that was a favorite of mine & a "frequent flier" at the hospital he wrote an order for me to take her on a walk. It was a particularly beautiful day & she was feeling especially well that day. We both loved it.*

Deborah Brace McGinnis - January 20, 2016 at 12:13 PM



“ *Deborah Brace McGinnis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O.*



Deborah Brace McGinnis - January 20, 2016 at 12:04 PM

MR

“ *Dear Vanator Family,*

I wanted you to know what a beautiful tribute to Doug, Dr. Vanator, Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Uncle, etc. on Saturday and again, so sorry for your loss;

I know you realize he made a difference to so many over the years, but in hearing about Dr. Vanator's 'whole life' on Saturday, even in his passing, please know I am sure he had a impact on others in that:

...we must remember that most of us only get to experience a 'slice' of one's life as we share experiences with them, and never know the 'rest of the story'---so, there is only ONE who can judge others and I know Dr. Vanator is certainly at peace in his arms...

Matt

Matthew Rush - January 10, 2016 at 07:18 PM

ST

“ Marie and family,
We, as a family, have many fine and fun memories of you and your family over the early years in Olivet.
I am so glad Sarah and I dropped in to see you a couple of years ago when we were back there.
God has a plan for us all which does not always make sense to us as we travel through this life, but know that there is a more grand blessing ahead free of sorrow and tears. May He shower you all with His love, comfort and grace, knowing we will be together again. If you get to the west someday, please look us up.
Sharon, Mashyl, Sarah, and Troy Hickok (now Thompson, in Glide, Oregon)

Sharon Thompson - January 09, 2016 at 08:36 PM

SK

“ I remember going to doctor Vanator when I was young. I am one of Richard and Charlene Kenney's daughters. In 84 we moved to Indiana and after graduation I ended up in Warsaw Indiana. In May of 99 I started working for the post office and on one of my routes found I was delivering to the farm he grew up on. I have never forgotten him. Best and friendliest doctor I ever had.

Sarah Kenney - January 08, 2016 at 10:40 PM

CF

“ I saw Dr. Vanator once just before his retirement when I first moved here to Olivet, he was by far the nicest person I have ever met. Not only did he help me with my backache, but treated me not just as a patient but like a family member. I spoke on the phone with him once after his retirement and, again, we talked about how he was relaxing but missed his practice. I just want the family to know how much he was loved and respected by myself and by everyone! He was truly a small-town Doc.

Cindy Field - January 08, 2016 at 04:30 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..*



January 08, 2016 at 11:53 AM



“ *Dr. Vanator and his family graciously invited me to spend Easter in their home with family when I would have had to spend it alone. He was so kind to me. I pray for God's grace, mercy, and peace during this difficult time. I will be praying for you all, I wish I could pay my respects in person. I miss you all.*

Ginger Major - January 08, 2016 at 10:38 AM



“ *Cathy
My sympathies to you and your family. Know that thoughts and prayers are with you and your dear family. May faith, family, and friends give you comfort.
Colleen*

Colleen Kracht - January 08, 2016 at 10:11 AM



“ *Cathy
so sorry for you loss thinking of you and your family during this difficult time
Walton Wonders 4-H club*

Carla & Kim - January 08, 2016 at 05:33 AM

RM

“ Rob & Mary purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



Rob & Mary - January 07, 2016 at 08:52 PM

RF

“ Marie: Sorry to hear about Doug's passing, but he is better off. It makes me homesick.

Robert and Ruth Frantz

Robert Frantz - January 07, 2016 at 08:51 PM

CO

“ I am sorry to hear of Dr. Vanator's death. I worked with him and his wife at Mission Mazahua in Mexico and appreciated the kind caring way he took care of the patients there. My sympathy to his wife Marie.

Catherine OGawa, MD



Catherine OGawa - January 07, 2016 at 08:29 PM

RS

“ Randy, Kym & Kody Stidham purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



Randy, Kym & Kody Stidham - January 07, 2016 at 06:58 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



January 07, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



January 07, 2016 at 05:20 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



January 07, 2016 at 05:06 PM



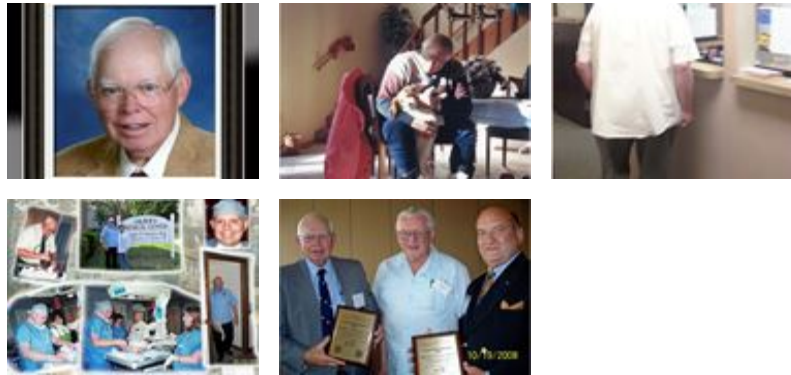
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



January 07, 2016 at 04:22 PM



“ 80 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 07, 2016 at 04:05 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..



January 07, 2016 at 02:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..*



January 07, 2016 at 12:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..*



January 07, 2016 at 08:54 AM



“ *Many trips with my parents, Jack & Oral Pruden, then with my brother & sis-in-law, Gary & Sue Pruden, created lots of wonderful memories for both families. Doug's life was blessed with family and friends who will comfort you at this time of loss. God bless all.
Lloyd & Jackie (Pruden) Johnson*

Jackie Johnson - January 07, 2016 at 08:46 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Douglas P. Vanator D.O..*



January 07, 2016 at 08:28 AM

ET

“ I am so sorry to hear of his passing. He was a family friend and our doctor. He was so caring with my Mother when she had leukemia. Prayers of comfort for the family.

Ellen Barnaby Thompson

Ellen Barnaby Thompson - January 06, 2016 at 10:36 PM

KB

“ So sorry to hear of his passing but celebrating his going home to Jesus. Dr. Vanator was a wonderful doctor and a great person. He will be definitely missed. Prayers for the family.

Kevin Berg - January 06, 2016 at 09:06 PM