

Raymond Sheppard

September 15, 1945 - June 15, 2019

Announcement: Dr. Raymond "Ray" Larry Sheppard (73) died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, June 15, 2019, after a brief illness.

Obituary: The impactful life of Dr. Raymond "Ray" Sheppard began with his birth to Grace and L.E. Sheppard in New Orleans, LA. He attended Louisiana State University (LSU) for both his undergraduate and medical degrees, as well as his Ob/Gyn residency.

Ray moved to Huntsville in 1976 and married Nancy Simeone in 1981. He and Dr. Joseph Fiore shared an OB/GYN practice.

He had the privilege of being the first to hold thousands of precious newborns, often delivering babies of the babies he had delivered. Hundreds of photographs of his patients decorated his office walls. Beyond his surgical prowess, Ray educated and mentored his peers and medical students.

To his colleagues, Ray was "a good man to know" because of his high professional standards. To his family and friends, Ray was "the observer" capable of listening intently to multiple conversations, and then, with surgical precision, dropping a side-splitting comment or a nugget of wisdom, before swiftly returning to observation mode! Those quick enough to appreciate his dry wit knew that even a fleeting conversation with Ray could result in riotous laughter.

In contrast to his calm and gentle demeanor, Ray passionately pursued vigorous sports, from flying, running, and biking to scuba diving and golf. He wore many hats at the Huntsville Track Club, and was Race Director of the Huntsville Double-Iron Man Triathlon for several years. A photography nut, Ray and his wife traveled the world to capture amazing images. Among his favorite trips was a photo safari in South Africa and a six-week cruise through Southeast Asia.

Ray truly loved life and he lived it fully. He was a dedicated LSU Tiger fan and remained true to his roots- enjoying Mardi Gras and Jazz Festivals, Cajun cuisine, and culture. He was a practical jokester, a healer, helper, and friend who impacted social and medical communities near and far.

Ray is survived by his wife of 38 years, Nancy Sheppard, his sons from his first marriage to Linda Yates Brown, Dr. Raymond Sheppard, Jr. (Heather) of Huntsville, AL, and Dr. Adam Sheppard (Niki) of Clovis, CA and daughter Carmella Whitehead (AJ) of Charlotte, NC. He is also survived by twelve grandchildren, brothers Richard, Terry and Mark Sheppard, and his dog, Gumbo.

Arrangements: Visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 from 5:00p - 7:00p and his funeral service will be held Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 11:00a, both at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. A graveside service will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery. After the burial, Dr. Sheppard's life will be celebrated at the Sheppard's home.

En lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Community Free Clinic of Huntsville for OB-GYN services. Please call St. Thomas Episcopal Church (256-880-0247) for additional information.

