



Roy Milton "Milt" Schayes

July 1, 1937 - May 5, 2022

Roy Milton Schayes, know to all as Milt, passed away peacefully on May 5, 2022, with his children at his bedside. He was born in Ardmore, OK on July 1, 1937 to Telesfore George & Josephine Schayes (Blumont). Milt grew up in a family run "Tourist Court" named the Blue Bonnet in Brownstown IL, where he had the "perfect childhood," which he lovingly recounted in his memoirs. Milt was proud of his academic success: he graduated HS when he was 16, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at 19, and finished Medical School in 1960 (University of Illinois) at 23.

As luck would have it, he met Sharon Ruth Huthman, a nurse at L.A. County General Hospital while he was a medical school intern. After a blossoming romance, they married on September 29, 1961. While serving in the California Army National Guard, Milt completed his residency in orthopedic surgery, then moved to Covina, CA where he practiced for three years. Milt and Sharon's daughter, Stephanie Alene, was born in 1967, and in 1968 they relocated to Bellingham, Wa, where their son, Gregory William, was born in 1979. Milt practiced as an Orthopedic Surgeon in Bellingham, WA until the early 90's doing countless joint replacement surgeries and perfecting the art of plaster casting broken limbs. Milt continued to work through his "retirement" as an independent medical examiner and as a volunteer at Unity Care NW (previously InterFaith).

Outside of work Milt enjoyed traveling the globe. From Europe to South America, Turkey to Bhutan, he and Sharon enjoyed learning about different cultures and volunteering their medical skills. He enjoyed exploring Whatcom and Skagit counties' lunch establishments after walking along Padilla Bay. Milt also enjoyed projects around the garden and was especially proud of his incredible blueberry bushes and espaliered apple trees. Milt loved live music. He recounted stories of the Los Angeles jazz scene in the 1960's, spent countless hours relaxing at the Seattle Symphony, volunteered with the Bellingham Festival of Music, and had a wonderful collection of Jazz and Bossa Nova albums. When his work was done you could often find Milt in his top siders napping on the couch under a New Yorker, or sitting on the deck enjoying a glass of wine (or dark Beer) with Sharon, discussing the world around them.

Milt is survived by his daughter Stephanie Alene Coon (Roger), his son Gregory William Schayes (Rebecca), his grandchildren Rachael Gaskill (Josh), Haley Davis (River), Josie Schayes, Angus Schayes, and his great grandchildren Hudson Gaskell and Redd Davis. He is predeceased by his parents, his sister Hazel Mrazek, and his wife Sharon Schayes. After the passing of his wife, Milt found companionship and solace with his friend Kirsten Oliver, with whom he enjoyed many long walks, adventures near and far, and lots of tender care.

His family will miss his late night cheerios, his endless acronyms, improvised blueberry buckets, hearing his stories (again and again), impromptu saxophone solos, take out dinner feasts, sailing together, his incredible vocabulary, his timeless style, his immaculate kitchen, his generosity, his dauntless work ethic, and his laughter.

A memorial service will be held for Milt at Saint James Presbyterian Church this summer. Memorial donations may be made to Padilla Bay Foundation, or

Unity Care NW. His family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Silverado for their loving care during his last 8 months.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Milt was one of the brightest people I’ve had the pleasure of knowing, and he had a sweet sense of humor. He was really easy to admire and I respected him immensely as a doctor and a human being. I hired him to perform Independent Medical Exams countless times over the years and he testified on behalf of my clients many times in court. I knew that if I had Milt as my expert testifying witness, the other side did not have a chance. He was deadly in the courtroom because he was honest, intelligent, prepared, told it like it was and always knew more than a lawyer trying to score points cross examining him. A rare trait, he always keep his cool and did not get derailed by any inhospitable characters in the legal profession.

Milt talked fondly about his family, his travel adventures and life on Pleasant Bay (and later in “town”). I appreciated his work ethic and his kindness. Much love to his family.

Bret Simmons - May 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dr. Schayes asked me to work with him starting in the early 90’s as a panel member performing Independent Medical Examinations. In time we became a team doing these examinations for several other companies. I found Milt an exceptional physician, man and human being. He told me he tried to live a non confrontational life. In my time working with Milt I found him a mentor of performing in-depth examinations being generous in sharing his medical knowledge. He was an eager man of relating his views on life and travels with many intriguing stories and life events. When we last spoke in ending our conversation I had to mention that he has been the highlight of my professional career. A most generous and caring man that will be missed.

John Permen, D.C. - May 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Barbara and Rick Osen are writing to appreciate how Milt Schayes entered our lives. Barbara has had rheumatoid arthritis since being a teenager and by 1983 was needing a right hip replacement. Dr. Schayes performed that surgery and was a comfort to both Barbara and Rick during the process. Soon thereafter Barbara contacted Dr. Schayes about a cement-less replacement for her left hip. He jokingly thanked her for his continuing education, studied it, and performed that on the left hip in 1986. That hip has only needed a partial revision in all this time, now 36 years later. Throughout these surgical schedules, operations, and follow-ups, Milt Schayes was a genuinely concerned doctor with good advice, understanding, and a very personable manner. Years later we made connection with him at the annual WWU salmon barbecues for donors, and always enjoyed seeing him with his friendly smile, genuinely gracious greetings, and his fond remembrances. We send our best thoughts and recollections to his family for a man who was truly a fine human being who has benefited this world.
Barbara & Rick Osen

Barbara & Rick Osen - May 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM