



## Alvin L. Watne, MD

July 31, 2011

It is with great sadness that the family of Alvin L. Watne announces his passing on July 31, 2011, at the age of 84. A native of Shabbona, Illinois, he has lived his past years in Marietta, Georgia. After serving with the United States Army during World War II, Alvin graduated from the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine, then specialized in surgical oncology for 40 years. He spent much of his career at West Virginia University, culminating as Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery. He then continued his career at the University of Illinois at Peoria as Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery. Upon his retirement, he continued his love of medicine as the Medical Director for the Cancer Center of GA at Georgia Baptist Medical Center. Retiring again, he worked with Dr. Robert Purdy providing medical care in Shabbona, IL. While he loved medicine, he loved teaching even more. He received numerous awards in his field, including a Fulbright Scholarship, American Cancer Society Eleanor Roosevelt International Cancer Fellowship for study in Japan, Excellence in Teaching award at West Virginia University, and Raymond B. Allen Instructorship Award at University of Illinois Peoria. He was also very active in his field holding numerous offices with: the Halsted Society, Southeaster Surgical Congress, Society of Surgical Oncology, the American Cancer Society (including President of the West Virginia chapter,) American College of Surgeons (including President of West Virginia chapter,) Society of Head and Neck Surgeons (including President,) and The Warren H. Cole Society (President,) among others. Alvin published hundreds of books and articles. In addition to his love of medicine and teaching, he loved spending time on his farm in Waterman, Illinois and longed to return. Alvin will be forever remembered by his wife of 45 years, Diana; his four children, Carrie and Robert Robinson of Smyrna, GA, Matthew Watne of Florida, Andrew and Patricia Watne of Chicago, IL, and Valerie and David Ferro; his six grandchildren, Nicholas, Drew, Dylan, Michael, AlvinLucas, and Samantha; and his dog, Belle. Big Al's sense of humor, intellect, selflessness, and bear hugs will be deeply missed by his family and friends. The family will receive friends at Shabbona United Church of Christ on Thursday from 5 – 7 PM and Friday from 4 – 8 PM. Funeral services will be on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 11:00 AM at the Shabbona United Church of Christ. Interment will follow at Johnson's Grove Cemetery in Waterman. Following the burial, luncheon will be served in the church basement. The

Watne family would like to provide lodging information to those traveling to the services:  
Best Western, Sandwich, IL (approx. 24 mi. to Shabbona) 630-273-6000 OR Hampton  
Inn, Aurora, IL (~28 mi. to Shabbona) 630-907-2600 OR Holiday Inn, Aurora, IL (~28 mi.  
to Shabbona) 800-647-1538 OR Holiday Inn Express, Sycamore, IL (~21 mi. to  
Shabbona)(815) 748-7400.

# Comments

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“ Diana, I am so sorry to Hear of Dr. Watne's death. He was awonderful mentor, and always a gentleman and a gentle man. I will always have fond memories of him as a benevolent chairman, and recall his several trips to the Wisconsin north woods for fishing and comraderie. With warmest regards, ScottLLVU

**Scott Liebl** - August 08, 2011 at 12:45 PM

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“ Mrs. Watne and family  
I was so sorry to hear of the passing of this great man. He was good to many, but he was good to me. I am sorry that I could not be there, but you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Dan Stewart  
WVU Surgery Resident 1980-85

**Dan Stewart** - August 07, 2011 at 09:39 PM

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“ Sending our deepest sympathy to the Watne Family. May his memory be eternal.  
Adel and Sara

**Adel and Sara Armanious** - August 06, 2011 at 11:34 AM

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“ Carrie, Rob, Nick, and Drew - We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Judy, Pete, Jeff, and Eric

**Judy** - August 05, 2011 at 11:14 PM

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“ He gave me my first rose corsage when I was 4, graduating from preschool because I got in a fight and had a black eye, He followed my education thru grad school. He came across the country to my wedding, and to see my first-born daughter. He talked Civil War medicine with my husband Bill and loved stories about my girls, Phoebe and Lydia. He leaves an incredible legacy of memories with me and many,many others. He was an important part of my families. He will be much missed. Dixee Bartholomew-Feis

**Dixee Bartholomew-Feis** - August 05, 2011 at 06:33 PM

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“ Dear Diana, Carrie, Andrew, Matt and Valerie;  
Al was always a shining example of the best a surgeon could be and a role model to everyone he touched - and there were many.  
We will remember him and miss him always.  
Carol and Keith

**Carol Slomski and Keith Apelgren** - August 05, 2011 at 01:10 PM

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“ In the 9 short years I knew my father in law, he taught me lifetime's worth. While I knew him mostly as a loving father, I can see how he achieved the accolades he did over his incredible career and the respect and love he garnered from all he touched. He was one of the most thoughtful and generous people I have had the good fortune of meeting in my life and not surprisingly, he welcomed me into his family with open arms. I will miss his sense of humor, myriad of stories, candor, counsel and the love he so willingly shared. May he now rest in peace. Love, Dave

**David Ferro** - August 05, 2011 at 08:48 AM

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“ Diana & Family:

We send out deepest sympathy to each of you. Al was a great Surgeon, good husband, good father and our dear friend. We will always remember some of the trips and dinners with you both. Al touched the lives of many people. During these difficult days, know that others care and share your loss. Reflect on the fond memories you had as a family. May God be your strength and grant each of you peace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Judy and Gary Wamsley

**Judy & Gary Wamsley** - August 04, 2011 at 09:58 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Watne's passing. I worked for him 30 years ago at WVU Department of Surgery. He was a wonderful person and I am truly saddened for your loss.

**Tina Lankford** - August 03, 2011 at 01:10 PM

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“ Valerie and family please accept our condolences. It sounds like your father was exceptional and very much loved by all. We are thinking of you, please let us know if you need anything.  
love,  
Sandra, Dean, and Hannah Maxim

Sandra Maxm - August 03, 2011 at 10:42 AM

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“ Please accept my sincere sympathy. Dr. Watne was a good friend and colleague. I am on call this weekend and will be unable to attend the services. He was a mentor to me as a medical student and followed my career during my residency at Duke University. He attended my Surgical Forum presentations and wrote me kind notes afterwards. Then, he recruited me back to WVU where I was for 22 years. Dr. Watne will be missed by all.

Ronald C. Hill, MD, FACS - August 03, 2011 at 09:59 AM

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“ My warm thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time of sorrow.

Noreen & Richard Smith - August 03, 2011 at 03:13 AM

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“ Sending all my love to the Watne family during this difficult time. May God fill your heart, mind and soul with strength and peace as you remember such an amazing man.

Lifting you in prayer and sending big hugs!!!!

Amanda Cambron

Amanda Cambron - August 02, 2011 at 11:27 PM

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“ Al will always be a poignant memory to me. I met him one sunny day in Morgantown WV. He was there sanding his boat. I later learned he built it himself. That shouldn't have surprised me.  
Over the years I would learn about that guy who sanded his boat. I learned he was a magician, a healer, a hunter, an author, a researcher and a wonderful Dad. I saw him as a cross between John Wayne and Mark Twain.  
He had a generous spirit and a loving heart.

His legacy will live on and on.

**Sandy Trzcinski** - August 02, 2011 at 10:32 PM

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“ Carrie, Rob, Nick, and Drew - we are so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that we are thinking of you and your family. Love you guys - Rich, Theresa, John, & Michael

**Theresa Campbell** - August 02, 2011 at 08:50 PM

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“ Dear Dr. Watne / Al / Dad: When I first met you, you most definitely were Dr. Watne to me. When you gave me permission to marry your beautiful first born, you became Al...sort of. Almost 19 years later, there is nothing more appropriate to call you than "Dad". Thanks for everything Dad, I love and am going to miss you. Rob

**Rob Robinson** - August 02, 2011 at 08:17 PM

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“ Diana, We pray to God to provide guidance and comfort to you in this time of sorrow. Al is certainly in a much better place after all his suffering. May your strength be renewed. Sincerely, Don & Kitty.

**Don & Kitty Sager** - August 02, 2011 at 07:51 PM

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“ Sonja and I are going to miss Al. We got to know him really well by going to the Sarasota reunions. It was amazing how he attracted people by his interesting conversations. We have often talked about how smart Al was and his knowledge of most subjects. He was brilliant man. Our prayers are with you and the family. Please keep in touch.  
Jim & Sonja

**Jim Alvaro** - August 02, 2011 at 11:38 AM

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“ I knew Dr. Watne through various U of I meetings. Great man.

**W. Robert Felker** - August 02, 2011 at 11:18 AM

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“ We will miss you Daddy. You loved your work, but we knew you loved being a Daddy more! I'll miss your poems and stories, you sure did enjoy telling stories! I know you are finally comfortable in Heaven with all your old friends and family. I'll always remember that they save the best for last.

**Valerie** - August 01, 2011 at 09:56 PM

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“ Daddy, I love you and miss you. I know you are with Bill, sitting on the porch with a beverage and Missy by your feet.  
Love always, your first born

**Carrie Robinson** - August 01, 2011 at 09:44 PM

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“ May GOD give your family the comfort you need in the grief you are feeling at this time in your life. Please take comfort from John 5:28,29.

**Sheena Hayes** - August 01, 2011 at 06:13 PM