



## Tom Caras

June 3, 1936 - November 16, 2020

DOB:6-3-36, Dayton, Ohio

DOD: 11-16-2020, Kennesaw, Ga

Tom Caras was a humble servant, a brilliant physician, a proud veteran, a Renaissance man in his time, a passionate historian, a self-described naturalist; yes all of these describe him, but his undeniably most important role was as a cherished and beloved husband and father, a family man through and through. And here's the thing: spend a little time with him, and you are part of his family. Why? Because he would get to know and care about you in short order. He genuinely wanted to learn about the people he encountered, making friends with people on the ski lift ride up the mountain, or folks he ran into along the trail. It did not take long to fall under his spell.

He had the gift of listening as well as talking ;). He genuinely wanted to learn about, and mostly from, the people he encountered, pretty much conducting a "soft interview" with most people that he met. A rare commodity indeed -someone who really wants to hear what others have to say, and this made him magnetic. Everyone appreciates a person who cares enough to listen to them. Before long those who associated with our dad would join the ranks of those of us who adore and love him.

He had the biggest, slightly crooked smile, and a twinkle in his eye, and was quick to laugh, even quicker to make you laugh, with his good-natured teasing such as an affectionate "go ahead, goat head" (Greek humor), and a few other choice abbreviations which I will not mention here. "Why don't you go play in the street?" was another of his lighthearted methods to tell you he did not agree with you.... Yeah, I forgot to mention that he was a stubborn Greek, so him disagreeing with you was not a rare occurrence. Just ask our mom- who had to work hard over the years to keep the house and yard from going into retro jungle state.

This leads me to another rare, but cherished quality of our dad. He was a Grade A+ on forgiveness. The man did not hold grudges. No matter how much we could yell back and

forth with our “Pop”, two minutes later, it was all good. What a fine quality to emulate! Not always easy, but indeed a way to live. He loved God and he lived in peace and harmony with everyone because of that ability to be loving, forgiving and treat everyone with value. A shining example for us all.

A final thought about our beloved dad, Tom Caras. If you did not know him on earth, you might want to search him out in heaven. He'll be wearing his hiking khaki's, hiking boots with duct tape, and God knows which of his 100 hats or T-shirts, but he will have the unmistakable slightly crooked grin and those bright twinkly eyes.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to MUST Ministries, St. Joseph Catholic Church, or WellStar Community Hospice.

- Tom Caras was born June 3, 1936 in Dayton, Ohio to Helen (Makris) and Sam Caras (immigrants from Greece)
- Attended University of Louisville graduating in 1958
- Obtained his Medical Doctorate Degree from the University of Louisville in 1962, graduating first in his class.
- Served in the US Army for 7+ years. During his service at the time of the Viet Nam War, he and a colleague used a novel approach to treat a major outbreak of Meningitis saving a multitude of soldiers <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/575759>
- Married the love of his life Carole Ann Raque on July 31, 1960
- Joined the Medical Practice of Benson, Jennings, and Randall in Marietta, Ga in 1969 where he worked until 2003.
- After 10 years of retirement, he returned to work at WellStar Kennestone Cardiac Rehab from 2013-2017
- Survived by his beloved wife Carole, and adoring children: son and daughter-in-law, Dr. David and Paula Caras, daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Kevin Golic, and daughter and son-in-law, Meg and Edwin (Suttner) as well as his eldest brother, Col. Louis S. Caras of Henderson, NV
- Legacy includes his 6 grandchildren: Daniel Allen, Nickolas Caras (and wife Danielle), Jennifer Roberts (and husband Waylon) Forrest Golic, Mallory Golic and Kristina Allen
- Preceded in death by his brother, Gregory Caras and sisters, Jodie Gianopulos, and Catherine Caras, all of Dayton, Ohio
- Also loved and admired by extended family including many nieces and nephews and most everyone who knew him.
- Cause of death was Alzheimer's Disease.

# Comments

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“ I cannot stop crying. Just learned of Tom's death today. He was an incredible doctor and friend for many years. We skied together, attended the symphony together and hiked together. I will never forget him.

Jim Drummond

Jim Drummond - April 06 at 01:51 PM

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“ What a moment of mixed emotion when I learned of Dr Tom's passing! There was sadness for the family and myself over the loss, but there is confidence he is in a better place with our Lord and Savior.

Dr Tom became my Dr back in the 80's when I would occasionally see him, annual physicals, flu, etc. Even with these rare visits, I knew I had found somebody special.

That was reinforced in late 92 when Dr Tom guided me through some heart issues that resulted in a valve replacement at Emory. He is one of the main reasons I am alive today. During this ordeal I realized I had more than a doctor - I had a friend as well. He always insisted that I address him by his first name, but purely out of respect for him the closest I could get was Dr Tom. He was not afraid of the Dr / friend dual relationship, and was a master at it.

Another thing I loved about Dr Tom was his common sense approach to personal medicine. He knew the text books, medical journal publications, etc., that are now-a-days followed by what I call "corporate medicine." However, he had an amazing ability to distill all that into a common sense approach that fit the patient.

In summary, I have missed him since he retired and will continue to do so. However, I am blessed to continue to be under his influence with his son, Dr David, as my cardiologist.

We are all blessed to have known him,

Samuel L Donovan

Samuel Donovan - November 23, 2020 at 11:37 AM

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“ Carole and Family,  
My Deepest condolences on the Loss of Tom.  
A very Great Loss attached to a Very Great Man.  
What a Smile, Wit, and Personallity to meet and Enjoy.  
We had many skiing and hiking adventures in Oregon, Seattle and Georgia  
Put I especially Loved to hear Tom talk of his night watches over his beloved Trees.  
He was shot gun toting maniac when his Trees were threatened.  
Being in his company was always such a Joy and a privilege.  
Great Loss to You All, and the all whom knew Him.  
Many God hold you All close as You heal.  
Diane Waterhouse Harris

Diane harris - November 22, 2020 at 02:38 PM

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“ Dr. Caras was one a kind and a true nature lover! When renting a house next door from him when I was first married, one of our guests almost stepped on a copperhead snake right outside the door. It wasn't the first of may copperheads I had seen around the house. When I addressed this problem and asked Dr. Caras if we should add an outside light, he told me "When you live on the mountain, you must become one with the mountain!" He went on to explain how he had personally named all the snakes in his own backyard that he greeted each morning. I have never forgotten that and still laugh about it today, remembering his big, endearing smile. And I also won't forget the fun years of ski trips with him and the entire Marietta crowd! Praying for peace and comfort for your family.  
Deepest sympathy,  
Cappy Doxey Gratwick

Cappy Gratwick - November 21, 2020 at 02:42 PM

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“ Tom Caras was the most unique human being I have ever known, and the one word he and I shared for the past 40 years was "friend". Tom was one of those people you could not ignore and when he entered a room or your life, he lit it up with his 1,000 watt smile and intellect. The care and interest he showed for everyone is truly unique. Tom, Marlee and I miss you greatly, and I can even now see you organizing hikes and generally taking charge of the daily health regimen in heaven. Hope to see you there one day and continue the conversation. Marlee and I love you. God bless.  
Alan Price

Alan Price - November 21, 2020 at 10:39 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tom Caras.



November 19, 2020 at 02:21 PM

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“ Dr. Tom was our family doctor for years. My parents, my husband and I were his patients until his retirement. He was always cheerful, and called it like he saw it, with a smile on his face. We loved his personal photos of his national park explorations that he used to decorate his patient rooms. Once when he treated me for vertigo, he said there was nothing wrong with me except I was a dizzy broad! We all loved him, and haven't found a family physician to fill his shoes. Dr. David is my mom's cardiologist, and we always asked about Dr. Tom. Love and prayers for you all in this time of grief! He will be missed by all who knew him.

**Jo Ann Montgomery** - November 19, 2020 at 11:23 AM

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“ Dave, and family:

Yonnie and I send our condolences in the passing of your Dad. We didn't meet him, but since you saved my life by detecting the widow maker, I'm sure your Dad was the reason you are the great physician you are.

Yonnie & George Murray

**George W Murray** - November 19, 2020 at 09:44 AM

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“ Dr. Caras was gracious to see us occasionally when our regular dr. was off. He always was a strait shooter once telling my sister who was suffering with a sore throat and sinus problem that she was too fat... .. we have laughed about that for years and shared it with his son when he was treating our Mother for her heart problems. What a joyful man and great physician. Blessing to his family and much love during this time of his passing. I'm sure he will be a blessing in Heaven, as he has been here on earth . Wanda and Ruth Mizell

**Wanda G Mizell** - November 18, 2020 at 11:14 PM



“ Tom was an amazing physician who cared for many of our patients at Pinnacle Orthopaedics. He deeply cared for his patients and his clinical practice was without peer. He saw many of our patients for preoperative clearance and so many of them complemented his warm, confident and passionate care. He had a gift for putting our patients at ease prior to major surgery. His clinical acumen was extraordinary and he clearly was a physician to be admired and deeply respected. Thank you Tom for being such a wonderful friend to our practice and to our patients. Stan Dysart, MD

**Stan Dysart MD** - November 18, 2020 at 11:03 PM

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“ Dr. Tom was an amazing physician and colleague. I learned early on that he had been a football teammate of Johnny Unitas at the University of Louisville, and that we were both graduates thereof. He always had a quick comment for me about U of L and we had a lot of reminiscences. Later he became my physician and took wonderful personal care – I don't recall his ever being in a hurry. He was a wonderful friend who always shared a big grin and pleasant greetings. There is no one superior to Tom. Signed, Reuel Hamilton

**Reuel Hamilton** - November 18, 2020 at 10:35 PM

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“ Dr. Caras was my beloved doctor. He made me feel like I was his most special patient. I also considered him my friend. It was hard to find a physician to replace him when he retired. There are not many out there like him!

Jill Hawes

**Jill A Hawes** - November 18, 2020 at 06:34 PM

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“ Dr. Tom Caras was such a wonderful man, always full of life, laughter and knowledge! We were so blessed that he was our family physician for years and great friend to our family. His light will blaze in heaven and they need to get ready up there as he will become their new hiking guide! God rest his soul. Our deepest condolences to Carole, David, Meg, Cathy and all of the family. Terri and Mike Benson

**Terri Benson** - November 18, 2020 at 05:21 PM

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“ When kind, soft spoken, and professional Dr. Charles Jennings retired, I was looking for a doctor. In speaking with my urologist, he said, "What about Caras?" I responded, "He's like a little banty rooster!" "He's a good doctor and he takes care of my family," he responded. So, I made an appointment, and, boy, it should have been recorded! Two definite personality A's going toe to toe. Over time, though, we developed a true fondness for one another. He told me what I needed to do, and I did it. (I've found doctors really appreciate those who follow their instructions to the "T".) That fondness grew into true love which we both publicly acknowledged. Son David is now my cardiologist, and with every visit we reminisce a little about his Dad. He was so much more than my doc; he was my friend. I'm so glad that, after that initial appointment neither of us gave up on the other! In the days ahead you will experience myriad feelings, but when they turn to sorrow, may our Heavenly Father not just touch you, but may He give you a hug!

Affectionately,

Charlie Aycock

**CHARLES B AYCOCK** - November 18, 2020 at 04:38 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**JM Thurston** - November 18, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ I'm pretty sure that's Dr. Harper (dermatologist) in yellow shirt.

**Jo Ann Montgomery** - November 19, 2020 at 10:49 AM

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“ Dr Caras was my Dr from the time he entered the practice until retirement. He was a wonderful Dr and friend. He will be missed.

**Sue Ellen Evans** - November 18, 2020 at 01:43 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to David, Cathy, Meg and the entire Caras family. My heart sank when I read of his passing. He was the kindest and most loving human being. He indeed was a man before his time. He cared for my grandmother, my mother and for me before he retired delivering the same quality of care to every one of his patients. I loved how he fought "the system" and always spent more time with his patients than he was supposed to spend. He was indeed one of a kind. The world is a less kind place without him. Much love to all of you, Mary, Condace and Joseph Pressley.

**Condace Pressley** - November 18, 2020 at 11:54 AM

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“ My heart sank when I saw Dr. Caras' name on the obit page. He was truly someone who went above and beyond the Hippocratic Oath. When diagnosed with a platelet and bone marrow condition, Dr. Caras allowed me to come in the back door of his office, so as not to be exposed to any germs in his office. Always positive and always happy, I have yet to find a general practitioner like him since he retired, and am resigned to the fact that I never will. You'll be greatly missed Dr. Caras!

**Jim Glover** - November 18, 2020 at 09:58 AM

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“ With sincere sympathy we send our condolences to the Caras family. Both my husband  
And I, worked with Dr Tom Caras and thought the world of him! He was a man of true kindness, integrity and a very loyal doctor to all his patients and staff. He will not be forgotten. Also, we had the sincere pleasure to interact with him at church. Always a pleasure to see him and his wife Carol. A true man of God.  
Sending healing thoughts ,and prayers to the family. Hoping that this special angel will enter God's kingdom ,and continue to spread joy to all who are the kingdom with him.

Bill and Linda Dowdell

**Linda Dowdell** - November 18, 2020 at 06:52 AM

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“ David Caras, my sincerest condolences on the passing of your father, Tom. I met your dad in cardiac rehab. Oh the conversations we had were so animated and spanned many subjects that we both shared. He truly was a delightful individual so full of energy and compassionate to everyone he came in contact with. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of grief. Know that it will pass, but take comfort in knowing he is celebrating his reward with our Lord and Savior in eternity.

Bob Wells

**Bob Wells** - November 18, 2020 at 06:00 AM

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“ We have had the pleasure of knowing Dr David & Paula Caras who are our neighbors , we have heard many great story's about Dr Tom over the years , but never had the privilege of meeting him. David , is a spitting image of his father in many ways , who learned his craft from a great man, his best friend and father . Tom served in the Military during the Vietnam War, a true Patriot to who I have great respect and consider a brother. From the stories I've read and the legacy he leaves , he would be a tough act to follow , but there is something in the Caras genes that was planted by Tom's ethical purpose in life that will live long after he's gone . His journey to Gods Kingdom is now complete and we celebrate a life well lived, just exactly like God planned. Our prayers are with your entire family thru this difficult time, surround your self with love , support and faith .

**Terry & Heidi Eggert** - November 18, 2020 at 01:09 AM

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“ What a loving and amazing tribute. Although we never met, he was clearly and dearly loved and left his family and the world a better place.

**Peggy Walsh** - November 17, 2020 at 11:59 PM

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“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr.Caras since I was 11yrs old. My mother was Marguerite Banke that worked for Dr. Randall. I also had the privilege of staying with you kids when your parents were out. He was a great friend and Dr to both my parents. He will be greatly missed.

**Beth Banke Ballard** - November 17, 2020 at 05:43 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of working, hiking, skiing and just talking and laughing with your father for 26 years He was one of a kind, truly cared about his patients and indeed had a heart of gold.

**Shirley** - November 17, 2020 at 05:03 PM