



Dr. Philip B. Bestic

August 14, 1944 - November 20, 2020

Dr. Philip Brereton Bestic died November 20, a victim of rapacious pancreatic cancer which he had self-diagnosed three weeks before.

Born August 4, 1944 in Minneapolis, MN to Major General (USAF) John B. Bestic and Frances L. Powell, he was the middle of three sons. The “Real Dr. Phil,” as labeled by a nurse colleague, practiced medicine-arguably his third career- in the Grand Strand for better than three decades.

Phil Bestic was an eclectic personality with a varied background. He was educated at Duke (BA/History), William & Mary (ABD grad work in History), Kansas University (PHD/Biochemistry) and the American University of the Caribbean (MD). His educational path was interrupted by four years in the Air Force, including one year in the Vietnam conflict engaged in special intelligence, leaving as a Captain. Subsequently he worked first as an environmental research chemist for Waste Management in Kansas City, and then as an Information Technology coordinator/programmer for Pioneer Financial Services. When his marriage ended in divorce, Phil decided to follow his childhood love, go to medical school and become a physician. He did so. In his medical persona, Phil was board certified (and regularly recertified) in ER medicine (he trained and mentored rural ER doctors throughout the Carolinas), Internal Medicine and more recently Gerontology. He founded Beach Medicine, a family practice in Surfside Beach, which operated until June 2019.

Personally, Phil was an avid runner (100 miles per month) until derailed by a

hip replacement, which required him to become a devoted walker. He loved to fly general aviation aircraft, and at one point was a certified civilian flight instructor. Phil essentially liked to “Fix things;” people in the medical context, computers, automobiles, broken household items including plumbing, carpentry...virtually anything. Aside from medicine, Phil loved the beach, sailing-sail boats (not power “Stink Pots”), working with computers and learning new programming languages. He was utterly unmaterialistic and had a voracious thirst for knowledge, to the extent he had no television in his home because it might detract from learning.

He is survived by two brothers; John Bestic Jr of Pawleys Island and Jeff Bestic of Aspen, CP; two nephews, John Bestic 3rd of Las Vegas, NV and Edward Bestic of Alexandria, VA, and a niece, Laura Alvarey of Windhoek, Namibia; plus, three grandnephews and a grandniece.

Contributions in Phil’s name can be made to the National Foundation for Cancer Research, Bethesda, MD.

A beach memorial ceremony will be held near Christmas, when other family members can travel to Pawleys Island.

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Dr B was a walking medical encyclopedia! Whenever I had an obscure (or common) medical case, he could rattle off the cause and treatments like he had just studied it! He enjoyed staying up to date on the latest research and he especially liked playing stump the NP! I will miss his quick wit, sarcasm and cynical observations. Always with an easy smile and chuckle. He helped all of his patients to better health, and plenty of mine by sharing his knowledge. Condolences to his family and friends he left too early.*

Stephanie Ferguson - January 01, 2021 at 02:22 PM

RF

“ *I am shocked to see this He was my Dr and I loved him He truly cared about his patients He never pushed drugs on you He first challenged you do go the natural way. He kept me from having to go on insulin just by changing my ways of eating and exercise. I owe him my love Thank you Dr. Bestic The medical field has lost a wonderful man. Rest in Peace*

Renda Foley - December 31, 2020 at 08:37 PM

SJ

“ *Dr. Bestic was an amazing man with a wealth of knowledge. I am so glad I had the privilege of knowing him and being able to work with him as a nurse. He was always teaching me new things. He will surely be missed. My condolences go out to his family. God Bless you Dr. Bestic*

Suzanne Jones - December 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM

GE

“ Phil was not only our family physician but a dear friend.
I have fond memories of house hunting for his castle by the sea and
the perfect launch path for his sail boat.
Years have past since we last shared a visit on his screened porch
but it seems like yesterday.
My deepest condolences to John Jr. and the family.
Fair winds and following seas Dr. Phil.
Grace

Grace Edwards - December 03, 2020 at 08:14 PM

LS

“ Dr. B was my doctor for over 20 years. He helped me through the
tragedy of losing my husband and was vey kind. I really admired his
special talents. He will be missed by many. God Bless you, Sir. I will
always love you.

Laura Simoes - December 01, 2020 at 04:43 PM

WU

“ Thanks for your service Airman and Fellow Vietnam Vet !!!
Wayne Williams
United States Marine Corps



Wayne Williams - USMC - November 26, 2020 at 02:31 PM

CO

“ Thank you for taking care of my dad at National Health Care.
Prayers for your family. Carol Oldroyd

Carol Oldroyd - November 24, 2020 at 04:16 PM

JR

“ Our condolences to friends, John and Kathy Bestic, from Jeanne and Marty Rosol, with love in this time of loss.



jeanne and Marty Rosol - November 24, 2020 at 12:58 PM

DR

“ I am sure going to miss you Doctor B. You were the only doctors appointment I looked forward to going to. You always gave me wisdom to get through my illness without taking unnecessary medications. My entire family will miss you as you become part of ours.
I miss you already and wish we had one more day /appointment for a much needed Dr. B laugh.
Love you always
Diana

Diana Robert - November 24, 2020 at 10:28 AM

AP

“ Doc B, you saved me in many more ways than one! Thank you for your service - to our country, to our local area of SSB/MI/PI, and for all you did for those of us needing your help and sense of humor. You are missed!
Annie P.



Annie P - November 24, 2020 at 10:08 AM

YC

“ He was our Dr. for 12years, He was wonderful Dr. and kind and caring man. He always had time to chat. Our deepest sympathy. Jay & Yvonne Cartman

Yvonne Cartman - November 24, 2020 at 08:51 AM

CM

“ Dr. Bestic was a friend as well as being my doctor since 2005. Dr. B had a quirky sense of humor & always was interested in learning. I will miss him.
God bless Doc B.

Charlene McSweeny - November 24, 2020 at 08:25 AM

LI

“ Beloved friend and trusted physician who will be missed. Hope he is finally sailing!



Linda - November 24, 2020 at 08:14 AM

LH

Dr B
So sorry to hear of your passing you were mine and Harry's Dr. And became our friend .playing cards at Janice's having dinner at my house .Being your only Patients at your retirement party we had a best light with you .Rest in Heavenly peace
Lynn and Harry Hildebrandt

Lynn Hildebrandt - December 05, 2020 at 11:42 AM

AC

I was Phil's roommate when we were in grad school at William and Mary circa 1972. I was also the 'best man' at his wedding to Pam around 1975. Phil was the most eclectic man I ever knew... interested in everything. We were in touch several times over the years... but never saw each other once we graduated. I have a few photos of Phil from those years and should the family want them they should contact me.

Alan Canton - January 21, 2022 at 11:56 PM



Hi Alan,

It's so lovely to read this post! I am Phil's niece and we miss him terribly!

If you see this, please contact me:

laura.alvarey@gmail.com

Thank you!

Laura Alvarey - September 04, 2023 at 02:16 PM