



Patrick Martin Growney, MD

March 30, 1933 - December 8, 2013

Patrick M. Growney, MD, of Villanova, Pennsylvania -- a renowned physician on the Main Line and consummate gentleman -- passed suddenly but peacefully to new life on December 8th. He was 80.

Dr. Growney was born in New York City in 1933, the son of Patrick Joseph Growney, Esquire and Lillian Stoneman Growney. He grew up in Bergen County, NJ, just outside of the City, where his father was a senior partner at Shearman & Sterling. At the tender age of 3, and despite numerous operations and treatments, a congenital eye condition claimed the sight in his right eye.

Dr. Growney, who never regarded his partial blindness as a disability, gravitated toward sports in school and during the summers he spent in Highland Lakes, NJ, where he excelled in swimming, tennis and baseball and where he won countless medals for his prowess with a yo-yo, a life-long hobby. He attended Bergenfield High School and was a three-sport athlete, earning All-County honors as a halfback in soccer and as the point guard on the school's basketball team. Beyond athletics, his extra-curricular pursuits included singing in Bergenfield's a cappella choir and playing percussion in the school's orchestra.

Dr. Growney also finished as the salutatorian of his high school class, and his

academic credentials led him to Princeton University, where he remained an honors student and continued his musical interests as a drummer in the school's marching band. He played intercollegiate basketball as a point guard for the Tigers until he suffered a career-ending knee injury. He was a member of the Cannon Club and became an avid pool and billiards player, skills he continued to hone as an adult. He graduated cum laude from Princeton 1955.

He continued to spend summers in Highland Lakes, where he met his wife of 57 years -- Dorothy Carr Inglis, a student at Wagner College School of Nursing on Staten Island. They were married in Brooklyn after Dr. Growney's second year of medical school at Georgetown University School of Medicine. The couple lived in Washington DC and had their first two children while Dr. Growney completed his post-graduate degree in medicine. He graduated cum laude from Georgetown in 1959.

Dr. Growney performed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and completed a fellowship in hematology at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. The couple had their third child while living in Haddonfield, NJ. He accepted an appointment to the medical staff at Bryn Mawr Hospital in 1964, where he served as Chief of the Hematology Service for thirty-four years. The couple relocated to Wynnewood and had a fourth child. The family later settled in Gladwyne.

Dr. Growney was board certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology. As such, he devoted his professional career to treating patients battling blood and lymphatic diseases such as aplastic anemia, multiple myeloma, leukemia, lymphoma as well as other forms of cancer. He utilized his expertise and his storied compassion as a caregiver to touch the lives of so many in the course of their ordeals.

In 1969, after several years in private practice, Dr. Growney had the vision to

partner with clinicians in other medical specialties to collaborate clinically and offer an array of services using a team-oriented approach. He and five colleagues established Bryn Mawr Medical Specialists Association – one of the earliest multi-specialty practices in the region. They practiced at different locations under a common umbrella in the formative years until the group purchased land and constructed a medical office building at 933 Haverford Avenue to house the growing venture.

“Dr. Growney and his group anticipated the integration of physicians into larger organizations to provide more coordinated care for the benefit of patients,” according to Russ Militello, the CEO of Bryn Mawr Medical Specialists Association. “It was novel and bold to combine specialty practices during a time when physicians traditionally practiced separately. Forty-four years later, BMMSA consists of 62 physicians practicing in over 9 medical specialties and subspecialties. Dr. Growney and his co-founders had the foresight to establish and prove the merit of a new and evolving model of practice.”

Dr. Growney and his colleagues also joined forces at the time to provide medical coverage for Rush Hospital for Consumption and Allied Diseases in Malvern. Rush Hospital had been founded in 1902 to treat patients with tuberculosis but had turned its focus toward geriatric medicine and psychiatry. In 1970, two years after those initial arrangements, the hospital merged into BMH and became known as Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Growney was instrumental in helping to foster the initial affiliation and, later, the merger of the hospitals.

In 1984, Dr. Growney also worked with hospital board members and executives in connection with the formation of Main Line Health, which initially included BMH, BMRH and Lankenau Hospital. Paoli Memorial Hospital joined

the new healthcare system in 1986.

Dr. Growney was a medical staff leader for much of his career. He was elected as President of the BMH Medical Staff in 1987 and served on the BMH Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1991. He worked closely with MLH administrators as the new system evolved. He was mindful of the pressures that were changing healthcare. In the mid-1990s, MLH partnered with Thomas Jefferson University to form the Jefferson Health System -- one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the region.

Dr. Growney retired from the practice of medicine in 1998 but remained an Emeritus member of the hospital's medical staff.

During his tenure, Dr. Growney was keenly interested in nursing and medical education. He was an instructor in medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and a hematology/oncology consultant at Veterans Hospital in Wilmington, DE. He also served as a physician consultant to the Lower Merion Police Department. Residents at BMH once awarded him with the Henry N. Kehres Trophy, affectionately known as the "Revere Bowl," which was given to the attending physician who provided the greatest support to the hospital's medical residents.

Throughout his career, Dr. Growney was adored and respected by colleagues, staff members, patients and their families, nurses and other caregivers. He was regarded as a quintessential gentleman, a brilliant clinician and a warm and understanding caregiver who provided guidance and support to patients suffering from chronic and often terminal illnesses.

In his personal life, he enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Philadelphia County Club in Gladwyne since 1967. At PCC, Dr. Growney enjoyed spending time on a weekly basis with the celebrated "Raiders" – a

group of senior members and cherished friends who played golf together every Thursday. During his retirement, he spent portions of the winter in Bonita Bay, FL, where was a member of the Bonita Bay Country Club.

He was also an avid gardener, and his former home in Gladwyne – the old Harrison Estate -- was a virtual arboretum, featuring over a dozen species of holly, a bonsai garden and various plantings and wild gardens. Dr. Growney also enjoyed traveling, writing children's stories, poetry, crossword puzzles, sketching, painting with watercolors, photography and a good game of poker.

But probably his greatest joy was watching his children and grandchildren play sports, particularly lacrosse. He was a member of the fun-loving "Ralph Club" – a loose and informal aggregation of fathers of lacrosse playing sons that celebrated and often embellished their sons' achievements in high school and at the collegiate and club level. Those fathers collaborated to form the Philadelphia Lacrosse Association as the regional chapter of US Lacrosse -- the sport's national governing body. Dr. Growney was an avid supporter of the PLA. He made a point to play every year in the PLA Golf Outing, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the growth of the game in the Philadelphia area and beyond.

He was a fixture on the sidelines watching his children and, more recently, his grandchildren compete in soccer, football, cross country, swimming, basketball and lacrosse. This past spring, 8 of 9 of them played for their college, high school or township lacrosse teams; there were always 2 or 3 games going on at the same time and in different places, and Dr. and Mrs. Growney tried to be on hand to witness most of them. On the day he died, he braved the elements and an approaching storm to watch two of his granddaughters play the game he never played but grew to love. He got stuck in the snow driving home.

He was exceedingly fortunate to have a happy and healthy family, a wonderful

wife, four successful children, nine talented grandchildren and many good friends and admirers. After all the sickness and suffering he saw in his career, he was well aware of the vicissitudes of fate and the important things in life. When asked over Thanksgiving recently what he was thankful for, he said "Our great family." And as he wrote to conclude his remarks in the program for his 50th anniversary reunion at Princeton -- "Isn't this life the greatest, or what?"

Dr. Growney is survived by his beloved wife Dorothy, his sister Lillian Theresa Growney; four children - Patrice Growney (Mark) Aitken, Scott (McCall) Growney, Esq., Steven R. Growney, MD, and Dorothy "Doss" (Peter) Masterson; and nine grandchildren – Colton Growney, Chase Growney, Scottie Rose Growney, Chandler Aitken, Schuyler Aitken, Doxrud "Dox" Aitken, Reilly Masterson, Peter "Jack" Masterson and Peyton Masterson.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 am on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 South Valley Forge Road, Wayne.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Philadelphia Lacrosse Association, 107 Steinbright Drive, Collegeville, PA 19426; the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675; or The Bryn Mawr Hospital Foundation Nursing Excellence Fund, 130 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. David's Episcopal Church
763 South Valley Forge Road
Wayne, PA 19087