



Lee Allen Raitz

March 28, 1940 - April 6, 2021

Lee Allen Raitz passed away peacefully at home in Virginia at the age of 81 on April 6, 2021 after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's disease. Lee was born on March 28, 1940 in Hector, Minnesota, the son of Norman Raitz and Irene Foesch. After attending Harvard University and the University of Minnesota Medical School, he served two years as a Captain in the Air Force at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana.

Lee had a successful OB/Gyn practice in Billings, Montana from 1972 to 1986, and introduced the first midwifery and home birth practices in the area. He left Montana to pursue an MBA from the University of North Carolina, and during that time helped to reopen a birthing center in Siler City, NC. In 1988 he settled in Northern Virginia where he practiced obstetrics and women's health with Kaiser Permanente until his retirement in 2006. In his 35 years of medical practice he delivered over 10,000 babies and is remembered by families across the country as a gentle and caring physician who always took the time to sit with his patients and make them feel safe.

Lee loved everything about the outdoors: hiking in the mountains, summitting Montana's 10,000 foot peaks, white water rafting, and "Silver Dream" sailing trips with his two best friends from college. He loved listening to jazz and classical music, playing piano, and singing in his church choir. He played multiple sports in high school and college, loved coaching his son's basketball and soccer teams, and was an avid fan of all sports but especially Tarheel basketball. Most of all Lee loved spending time with his family, cheering on his

daughters in ski competitions, horseback riding shows, dog obedience trials, cheerleading events and volleyball matches, and taking cross country trips with his family to visit National Parks.

Lee is survived by his wife of 34 years, Debbie Jessup; daughters Kira Raitz Buchman (husband Fred) of Dallas, Texas; Kolleen and Katie Raitz of Denver, Colorado; and son Kevin Raitz from Fairfax Station, Virginia; his sister, Barbara Raitz Gaugert (husband Alan) of Phoenix, Arizona; and brother, Gary Raitz (wife Mary) of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Services will be held (in person and live-streamed) Monday, April 19, 2021 at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke VA AbidingPresence.net/live. There will be a reception line and viewing beginning at 9:30 a.m., with service starting at 11:00 am ET. Burial will be at the Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery in Burke, VA.

Condolences may be shared with the family through the digital guest book at AbidingPresence.net/live.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider a donation to honor his life work of caring for mothers and babies, to Stella Marina, an Operation Starfish Program that provides clean birthing and newborn kits and trains midwives to care for the families of Haiti (www.stellamarina.org); or a donation in gratitude for the love and support of his faith family during his long illness to AbidingPresence.net/give .

Cemetery Details

Fairfax Memorial Park

9900 BRADDOCK ROAD
FAIRFAX, VA 22032

Tribute Wall



“ *Lee Allen Raitz*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM