



Dr. Thorlief Ludvig Stangebye

March 18, 1928 - July 28, 2019

DR. THORLIEF LUDVIG STANGEBYE, 91, finished his race Sunday, July 28, 2019 surrounded by his loving family.

Dr. Stangebye was born in the front room of the family home in New England, North Dakota, on March 18, 1928. The only son born to T L Stangebye Sr. and Ruth Jones Stangebye, Doc was the third of four children. He grew up in Mott, North Dakota, weathering the hot plains of summer and the frigid temps of the snowy winters, his boyhood enhanced by his childhood friend, Roger Stubbins, and with good books sent from his Aunt Belle in Chicago, and with the shenanigans into which he and his slightly older sister, managed to get. Named salutatorian of his class, Dr. Stangebye finished high school early to enlist in the US Army. After his stint there, he enrolled at the University of North Dakota, intent on pursuing a pre-dental course in preparation to become a dentist like his father. However, somewhere along the way, he made two significant course changes: he switched to pre-med and began to date a pretty girl from the big city of Fargo, Karen Bergesen, who would become his wife in 1952, the year he started his last two years of medicine at the University of Maryland. Even as dementia would steal his memories in the last years of his life, he would daily express the good fortune of meeting our mother and marrying her. Upon graduation, he did his residency at Detroit Receiving Hospital and was then employed as a physician by the Quain and Ramstead Clinic in Bismarck, North Dakota.

In 1963, Dr. Stangebye moved his family of seven, including a newborn only weeks old, and began what was to become a four decade long career serving patients in Roswell, NM. He loved his work and his patients, and his family was reassured of those patients' affection for Dr. Stangebye at Christmas time each year when their gifts were delivered to the family home: hand made afghans, jars of salsa, boxes of candy, and more. One of the tributes we relish is the time one of our brothers was paired with a stranger on the golf course in Roswell, and when the stranger found out who his partner's father was, he gushed our father's praises, concluding with the remark that although he himself had an incurable illness and there was no medical help for his condition, he still loved visiting with our father because of the laughter they shared, and he always felt better after leaving his office.

During the early years of his practice, he and his nurse, June Franko, helped develop and charter the Chaves County Medical Assistants Association in an effort to increase the education and professionalism of Medical Assistants throughout the community. Years later, he would later become the first Director of Hospice of Roswell.

He was never keen on traveling, much preferring to leaf through a picture book of foreign places, a cost-saving behavior he passed on to at least one of his progeny. But during the course of his life, our mother successfully urged him to accompany her to other countries and other places including Israel, Scandinavia, England and his mother's native land, Wales. He was always better for having been but never inclined to go again.

He called himself a late bloomer, not learning the benefits of hugging until in his 50's and although a long-time churchgoer, not coming to an understanding of Jesus as his Savior until the same decade, and then became an eager participant in Community Bible Study for many years. During his own children's early years, he was often away from home, distracted by the needs of his patients. But we were all grateful that his son Eric's children gave him a second chance to enjoy the happy furor of family life. His success as a late bloomer still gives us hope.

Our father's vision brought us to New Mexico, and we have been so blessed by the beauty of its vistas and the friends we have made. His skill created for us a good name in the community, and that opened many doors for us. Moreover, his perpetual pleasant disposition and ready laugh still warm us. Proverbs 17:22 "A cheerful heart is good medicine." He leaves behind his wife of 67 years, Karen, his children Brenda (Kellar Winkelmeier) of Columbia, Missouri, Thor (Sue) of Minneapolis, Eric (Janina) of Roswell, Krista (Eric Lindquist) of Denver, Lars (Jenny) of Montrose, Colorado and Meghan Houk of Dallas. Also his older sister, Patricia Kailer of Albuquerque, the children's beloved Aunt Pat. He and Karen share 21 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The family owes a special debt of gratitude to our middle brother, Eric, and his wife, Janina, and their children, Theo, Sophia, and Sallyanna, who served as boots on the ground and loved our parents with all their hearts.

We are also thankful for the loving care and attention provided to our mother and father by Kindred Hospice of Roswell and the entire staff at Avamere Assisted Living of Roswell. Finally, we wish to thank Dr. Reynaldo Martinez, who provided the same kind of compassionate care our father gave so many others.

A Memorial Service will be held at 9:00 AM, Saturday, August 10, 2019, at Grace Community Church. Memorial gifts may be sent to Royal Family KIDS of Roswell, PO Box 3886, Roswell, NM 88202 or Harvest Ministries of Roswell.

Dr. Stangebye's tribute was written in his honor by his family. Celebrate Dr. Stangebye's life by visiting www.andersonbethany.com to offer a memory or expression of sympathy for his family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Thorlief Ludvig Stangebye*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE SPECIAL MEMORIES OF DR.STANGEBYE", ESPECIALLY-HIS "COMPASSION & RESPECT FOR HIS PATIENTS. TRULY A FINE PERSON & PHYSICIAN !! REST IN PEACE---DR.GLEN & CAROL PACKARD (CMA)*

DR.GLEN & CAROL PACKARD - August 09, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ *Eric, Janina & Family,*

I just wanted to send you my deepest condolences in your time of loss. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting your father I know that he was a blessing to have as a father, father-in-law, grandfather, and a friend. I hope that you take peace in the fact that there are so many people's lives that he touched that have become better people because of it. If there is anything Dad and I can do, please do not hesitate to ask. We are next door and will make time to assist you in any way we can. Your family are in our prayers and hearts.

*Sincerely,
Vernon Dyer and son Chauncey*



Chauncey Dyer - August 08, 2019 at 01:31 PM

RG

“ I had the honor to work with Dr. Stangebye at Casa Maria and on Medical Floor. He taught me a lot about caring for people and families. I learned from his compassion and common sense. My condolences to his family, I will always have fond memories of him.

Randy Grady

randy grady - August 05, 2019 at 11:49 PM

AD

“ Rest in peace Doc Stangebye! My childhood is filled with memories created at 1309 Highland Ave. From the made for tv football catches and throws in the front yard to the full court nerf hoop basketball games in the living room (who lets their kids do that?) or simply sitting around the kitchen table talking. You and Mrs. Stangebye created that loving home for your kids and their friends. Thank you!

Go rest high on that mountain!

Anthony D'Agostino

Anthony Dagostino - August 05, 2019 at 05:57 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Thorlief Ludvig Stangebye.



August 05, 2019 at 09:53 AM



Maret
Amaral

“ To the family of Dr. Stangebye,
I was asked for my mother to put something in for her. She worked
for him many many years ago and had to most respect for him. He
was also my doctor when I was younger too. My Mom was friends
with his nurses and would run into him all the time. She is retired
from Dr. Henry's office now after 33 years. But my mom wanted to
give her respects to you and that you are in her thoughts and
prayers. Much love,

Jena S. Amaral and her daughter Maret Amaral

Maret Amaral - August 02, 2019 at 11:23 AM



JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of "Dr. Stangebye's" death, for that is how I
knew him. You were blessed to have a wonderful father and family
who impacted the Roswell community in a beautiful, positive
manner. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Jan Holland Hickey

Jan Hickey - July 31, 2019 at 07:03 PM



“ He was our family doctor I remember when we would go to see him
when we were sick he would always give us shots he was a great
doctor

Silvia Hilliard - July 31, 2019 at 06:35 PM

AA

“ *What a blessing Dr. Stangebye's beautiful life was to Mrs. Stangebye, to their children and grandchildren, and to Roswell. And his goodness continues in the lives of his children and grandchildren. May the Lord comfort each of you as you grieve the loss of your beloved patriarch, and may your hearts be filled with joy that he is safely in Heaven.*

Ann Applegarth - July 31, 2019 at 11:16 AM

EM

“ *Erica Montoya sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Thorlief Ludvig Stangebye*



Erica Montoya - July 30, 2019 at 07:41 PM

EM

Ms Stangebye and family sending my prayer and love he was a good man may he rest in peace

Erica Montoya - July 30, 2019 at 07:44 PM

CH

I loved Doc. I'll always remember him walking Rusty their dog around Avamere. Doc was always a kind and gentle spirit, as is his lovely wife Karen. I will miss him dearly. See you in Glory, Doc.

Chris Hicks - August 01, 2019 at 11:59 AM

JS

*I was saddened to hear of Dr. Stangebye's passing. He was my doctor for many years and my mother's also. Before my dad died we were so glad he had been under his care. He was in the hospital when my dad went to the er. Over the years we relied on his good judgement and humor. May God bless the family with comfort and encouragement.
Jerry Ward (Seale) Stone*

Jerry Ward (Seale) Stone - August 03, 2019 at 11:04 AM

CF

My mother, Bernadine Jundt answered an ad to work in Dr. Stangebye's office many many years ago. She thought she would be working in the office answering phones, etc. but he wanted her to work with him. She became a medical assistant and loved working for him. She still is talking today about how kind and caring and such a good doctor he was. God Bless for giving my mother this opportunity.

Char Feldman - August 06, 2019 at 02:20 PM

LG

Dr. Stangebye was on the board of Chaves Co. Home Health while i was the Ex Director for 11 years. These were very turbulent years as the governmnet was trying to curtail the cost and growth of Home Care while changing the reimbursement to Hospitals. We entered into numerous lawsuits over 8 years. Dr. S. stood by my side as I fought these battles and we won. He was very loyal to home health and to me. He also sent me to to a work shop with Phil McGraw. Dr. Phil before he was famous. This changed my life and I was able to send numerous employes to this life changing work shop. Many of those told me how it changed their lives for the better. He was truly an honorable man.

Linda Gilmore - August 08, 2019 at 04:28 PM

SD

Eric and family, my heart feels for you, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your dad took care of my dad for many years prior to my dad's passing in 1990. Your dad was a huge comfort to me during the brief period of time my dad was so, so sick. I remember literally going to your dad's office unannounced and grief sticken because my dad was at death's door. Your dad was so accomodating and took time with me. His honesty and compassion was exactly what I needed at that time. He was a great man. I can only imagine how proud he was to have a great son. Blessings to you Eric, I pray great memories quickly fill the emptiness in your life. Hope to see you at some point. Take care of yourself....Shari Darr Dayhoff

SHARI D DAYHOFF - August 13, 2019 at 09:46 AM