



Dr. Richard Blair Summersgill

July 17, 2023

Dr. Richard Blair Summersgill of Moorestown, New Jersey died peacefully at home on July 17, 2023. He was 70 years old. Dr. Summersgill was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in the fall.

He dedicated his life to service and to his family. He was a physician for 45 years—35 of them in Moorestown, where he cared for hundreds of local families until he retired in 2018. Dr. Summersgill graduated from Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, where he majored in Biology and was captain of the rifle team. After graduating from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical School, he served in the United States Army for nine years, including assignments in Fort Ord, California and Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Among his friends and family, he was known for his kindness and great sense of humor and among his grandchildren for his legendary camping trips and sweet tooth. His favorite pie was Key Lime, and he couldn't drive by a donut shop without stopping to sample the baked goods. He loved to play with his grandkids and was frequently spotted at their many soccer, lacrosse and basketball games and dance recitals, cheering loudly and occasionally starting the wave.

Dr. Summersgill loved to play golf and tennis and to travel. He was an avid cyclist and rode through Scandinavia, Italy, Austria and Slovenia. A trip to Gettysburg as a teenager sparked a lifelong fascination with Civil War history. He visited many historic battlefields up and down the East Coast, volunteered to clean up historic sites and collected an impressive library of history books

that will be donated to the Moorestown Public Library.

Dr. Summersgill is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda Snyder Summersgill, his daughter, Julie Townsend and her husband Tim, his son Michael Summersgill and his wife Devon, and his son Andrew Summersgill and his wife Jessica, plus seven amazing grand-kids.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 2nd from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Library at the Community House of Moorestown. Those who wish to pay their respects to the family are welcome to stop by during the visitation hours between 3:00-5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family is encouraging donations in Dr. Summersgill's memory to three organizations that do extraordinary work to help patients and families navigate challenging circumstances.

The ALS Association, <https://donate.als.org/give>

The Paralyzed Veterans of America or <https://secure.pva.org>

Samaritan Hospice <https://samaritannj.org/giving/donate-now/>

Cemetery Details

PRIVATE INTERMENT

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 2. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Library at the Community House of Moorestown
16 E. Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057
<https://thecommunityhouse.com/>

Memorial Service

SEP 2. 5:00 PM (ET)

Library at the Community House of Moorestown
16 E. Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057
<https://thecommunityhouse.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ During my annual checkup at Moorestown Family Practice today, I learned of the passing of Dr Summersgill. This was a total shock because as I remembered him as a healthy and vibrant physician who i thought was far from retirement age. This is so sad and shocking. very often during my visits i made a point of asking how doctor was doing. I had been so happy to hear about his trip to Europe and enjoying his grandchildren’s activities. He was a very kind and caring doctor and had a subtle sense of humor. I moved into the area in 1988 and became a new patient to MFP in the old location across from Moorestown Friends and remember his when he joined Dr Scott. Always enjoyed reading American Rifleman in the waiting area and look at all the interesting artifacts in the examination rooms. To the family my condolences for your loss. He will be greatly missed.

Thomas Tonelli - April 24, 2024 at 08:50 PM



“ *Dr. Richard Blair Summersgill*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *When I began my career in Moorestown in 1985 I met Dr. Summersgill as the school’s physician. Then I was fortunate to be his son Andrew’s teacher. I’m so sorry for the loss your family is experiencing. Sincerely, Dianne Wilkens.*

dianne - August 01, 2023 at 10:03 PM

DW

“ It is with profound sadness that I learned of Blair’s passing. Blair was truly a good roommate and friend to me during our time in Kappa Sigma at W&J and he was as close to being a real brother as I can imagine. His dedication to Linda, his family and his community was no surprise to me and will live on well into the future as part of his legacy. I am both proud and honored to have known Blair and offer my deepest sympathy to Linda and her family during this difficult time. It is still comforting to know that Blair’s memory will live on in the hearts and minds of his loved ones.
Dennis R. Wylie

Dennis R. Wylie - July 21, 2023 at 06:58 PM

BR

“ My heart is so heavy from losing my most wonderful of friends. He was my client and he was my doctor for 35 years. He taught me pride in being a military veteran. We played in a tennis group together and a golf group together. We spent all of our time together trying to find ways to make each other laugh and annoy each other. There are way too many memories to share here. But I will always cherish the time he and our golf buddy, Fred, visited us down here in Hilton Head. We had him laughing so hard he cried. I will miss so much how he laughed at me and with me. I will keep in my mind forever the long talk on the phone in the last six months. I keep his memory with me by telling his stories to my new golf buddies down hear. To Linda, Andrew and the rest of the family...know well how much he always told me how much he loved you all.
Bob Ragone, US Army Retired.

Bob Ragone - July 20, 2023 at 03:11 PM

GC

“ *Dr. Summersgill was the School Physician for the District of Moorestown for many years. He would visit each school several times a year to perform physical exams on students who were new to the district and who didn't have a family doctor of their own. He was always professional, gentle, cheerful, patient and kind to the students. If any students seemed fearful, he would make them laugh and put them at ease with his easy smile and sense of humor. My deepest condolences to his family. Ginny Cavalier, School Nurse, UES, retired.*

Ginny Cavalier - July 20, 2023 at 09:55 AM

AD

Tim: I share in the pain & sorrow that you and your family are experiencing. Having lost my wife of 43 years in January, a day doesn't go by without me thinking about her. My thoughts and prayers are with you & your family! Art D.

Art D'Agostini - July 20, 2023 at 12:22 PM

TM

I had the privilege of knowing Blair for 4 years at Washington & Jefferson College where we were fraternity brothers. He was a caring and compassionate soul and will be sorely missed on this earth. My thoughts and prayers are with Linda and the entire family.

Tim Mains

Tim Mains - July 21, 2023 at 06:20 PM

Jl

so sorry of the passing of Dr.Summersgill. Roy and I had him as our Dr when he started in Columbus followed him to Moorestown and Dr Summersgill was our Dr until he retired. He was the pleasant and concerned Dr and never hurried you out. Thank you the Summersgill family for lending him to us for at least 30 years. He is and will be missed. Roy and Joan Ingling

joan ingling - August 01, 2023 at 04:04 PM

DM

I recently learned of Dr. Summersgill's passing. He was my Doctor for many years and I am very sad to hear he has gone at such an early age and so soon after his retirement. I knew he was very much looking forward to his well deserved retirement, free time and travels. He was a wonderfully kind and quiet gentleman who saw to my health needs with extraordinary patience and I find it such a sad irony that he took care of so many but lost his own health. I offer many condolences to his family and hope they find peace in knowing how many, many people cared for and appreciated him.

*Delia Miklovis
Galloway, NJ.*

Delia Miklovis - August 02, 2023 at 05:30 PM

FC

BEST Diagnostician hands down!! Kind, caring, and compassionate!! Your skill set went beyond what can be taught. I just learned yesterday of your passing when I asked about you at my annual physical. I was deeply, deeply saddened by the news. I can remember how excited you were to enter retirement and enjoy your family; including the dogs. I was one of your first patients in Columbus and followed you to Moorestown (I even stayed with you when I moved out of state). Simply the BEST!! My SINCEREST Condolences to your family, friends, and my fellow patients!

Fran Conrey

Fran Conrey - October 31, 2023 at 10:03 AM

BM

What a wonderful person glad we got to know him when our kids were young. Becky & Bob McFerran

Becky & Bob McFerran - February 03, 2024 at 01:14 PM

ED

I worked for, 'Dr. S.', for a time at AMFP. He was one of the very best doctors I'd ever worked under, with the kindest disposition and a keen sense of humor. I was so sorry to hear of his passing. They don't make very many physicians like him anymore; he definitely broke the mold. Dr. Summersgill, I'll always be grateful to you for reassuring me at one time, when I was fearful of test results. I also remember when you gave up that, 'square cookie', for me! :) My condolences to the Summersgill family. Your many patients, staff, friends, and community will sorely miss you!

• *Elisha DeLuca*

Elisha DeLuca - February 02, 2025 at 06:01 AM