



Steven Jay Oxler MD

January 4, 2024

Steven Jay Oxler, MD, FACEP, CAPT USN (ret), 76, of Moorestown, NJ entered into eternal rest Thursday, January 4th, 2024. Steve was born in Charleston, SC on October 25, 1947 to the late Herbert and Eva (Levy) Oxler. After graduating from Rivers High School, Steve attended Clemson University and began his lifelong support of Clemson athletics. Upon graduation, he headed back to Charleston to attend Medical School at the Medical University of South Carolina. He was commissioned in 1969 as a Navy Health Professions Scholar, and upon completion of his Doctor of Medicine degree, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA to begin his career in the United States Navy as a resident in Internal Medicine. He was stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital until his separation from Active Duty in 1979. He joined the Navy Reserves in 1982, and was recalled to Active Duty in 1991 as a member of Fleet Hospital 15, serving in Al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia. He retired as a CAPT from the USN in 2003.

Steve loved being an Emergency Medicine Physician: interacting with colleagues, teaching and mentoring medical students, residents, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, and serving and caring for the greater community of South Jersey. By the time he retired from clinical medicine in 2017, Steve considered himself fortunate to have formed partnerships with Emergency Medicine colleagues at West Jersey Health, Zurbrugg and Rancocas Hospitals and Underwood (now Inspira). He had been an instructor in the Paramedic Sciences since 1985. Steve was an active member of the board of trustees for Healthcare Quality Strategies Incorporated.

Steve's love of teaching and Emergency Medicine extended into the classrooms of University of the Sciences, Rowan University and Rowan College at Burlington County where he taught Anatomy and Physiology and Disaster Preparedness up until December 2023. Steve was a consultant to the Defense Medical Training Institute at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. He was a subject matter expert in the fields of Mass Casualty Triage and the medical treatment of Chemical and Biological Warfare. An avid sports fan, Steve combined his love of boxing and mixed martial arts with his clinical expertise as a ringside physician beginning in 1995 with the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board. In 2014, he was inducted into the New Jersey State Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He continued to work boxing and MMA events until 2023.

When not ringside, Steve could be found rinkside, cheering on the Philadelphia Flyers, as a 30-plus year season ticket holder. Steve was a super fan of field hockey and women's lacrosse, especially teams his daughter Lizzy played on or coached. He never missed a game and was a fixture on many sidelines over the years.

There was not a craft or jewelry show Steve did not attend in the greater Philadelphia area, nor a Motown or Classic Rock concert he missed. He loved to travel to Las Vegas and nearby Atlantic City and Philadelphia to hone his poker skills and visit his family and friends. He cherished his summers on Cape Cod, where he saw family, ate oysters at happy hour, and spent time on the beach. In the last ten years, Steve became a road warrior, making frequent trips to and from Louisiana to visit Lizzy, his daughter, as she worked on and completed her doctorate at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2022.

Steve is survived by his wife Karen Flaherty Oxler, RADM USN (ret) whom he met at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital and was married to for 41 years. He leaves a daughter, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Oxler of West Chester, PA. He is also survived by a sister Sherri Dangerfield (Michael) of Charleston, SC, brother Jeffrey P. Oxler of Vancouver, Canada as well as nieces Erin (Joe) Oxler, Amie (Mike) Armet, and Kari (Graydon) Aguiar.

The family will be receiving guests at Lewis Funeral Home located at 78 East Main Street in Moorestown, NJ on Saturday, February 10th from 2-4 pm.

Burial with Military Funeral Honors will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider a memorial gift to Moorestown Paramedics and/or to Westtown School (c/o Office of Advancement, 975 Westtown Road; West Chester, PA 19382.) Gifts will be designated to Westtown's women's lacrosse and field hockey programs.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Lewis Funeral Home
78 E Main St
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0009
lewisfh@msn.com
<https://www.lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Condolences to the Oxler family for the great loss you experienced with Steve's departure from this earthly existence. I was fortunate to have known Dr. Oxler in 1976 as a very green Internal Medicine Intern / Resident at PNRMC. He was a congenial instructor, mentor, and inspiration in my dealings with him in treating Emergency Room and general Internal Medicine patients. My time at Philadelphia Naval Regional Medical Center was immeasurably better by knowing and receiving instruction from Dr. Oxler. God Bless all who remember and cherish his memory.

John Ferris - August 25, 2025 at 07:58 AM

BR

“ I had the pleasure of receiving Dr. Oxler's instruction in my senior capstone course, Biology of Disasters, at RCBC. I remember Dr. Oxler fondly as a remarkably interesting person and fantastic teacher. Dr. Oxler was a passionate instructor, sharing his valuable knowledge and experience with us while showing off his fabulous animal pins on his coat every day. I still look back at my time in his course with great admiration and pride. I'm incredibly saddened to hear of his passing - his family has my deepest sympathies. Thank you, Dr. Oxler.

Brea R - January 13, 2025 at 06:09 PM

GM

“ I remember my old friend Steven. I am sorry that didn't get back to Charleston and see him. Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Gary Messenger - October 01, 2024 at 09:16 AM

GC

“ Gwen Cham lit a candle in memory of Steven Oxler



Gwen Cham - July 03, 2024 at 07:51 PM

AG

“ Akshay Gupta lit a candle in memory of Steven Jay Oxler MD



akshay Gupta - May 11, 2024 at 10:06 PM

IR

“ Dr. Steven Oxler has inspired me throughout my entire semester last spring in 2023. He was such a bright person who never shied away from answering questions. He had a different brooch each lesson and a story to go with each. He had an excellent sense of humor to go along with his excellent style of teaching. His passion for his work and teachings was very apparent and influenced many students during his career I'm sure. We will miss you dearly, rest in peace.



Irem - April 07, 2024 at 08:42 PM

JH

“ My condolences to Karen and the Oxler family. I didn't know Steve long but when had fun memorable conversations about our experiences in the South Carolina Low Country and the military. He will be missed but most of all I will always remember Steve saying while at a Veterans Day Parade “We have to enjoy these moments and have fun!”



Jonathan Hodges - March 20, 2024 at 03:32 PM

RS

“ I only knew Dr. Steve for a few years from playing poker. As fellow college professors we had a number of educational conversations. I always enjoyed our time together and am filled with sadness now that he is gone. He will be missed.
Richard Sarkisian

Richard Sarkisian - March 12, 2024 at 06:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Collage



Lewis Funeral Home - February 11, 2024 at 10:56 AM

PL

“ My condolences to his family. He was a terrific doctor, a wonderful educator, and an all around great guy. You will truly be missed Dr Oxler.

Pat Lutz - February 10, 2024 at 06:32 PM

PC

“ As an old Underwood RN, I have known Steve since the 70s. I am deeply saddened to read of his death. He was a wonderful physician, of course. More than that, he was a wickedly funny and witty guy. It was a privilege to work with and learn from him. We shared many a laugh. He was a true Renaissance Man. I am so sorry to you, Lizzie and Karen, for your sad,sad loss. Sincerely, Paula Condliff

Paula Condliff - February 10, 2024 at 04:00 PM

EM

“ My sincere condolences to Karen and Lizzy, I am sure you must miss him dearly. It was always a pleasure to work with Steve both in the ED and teaching. He truly was a lifelong learner and coach, and a very dedicated physician. We met in the late 70's in the ED and through Navy friends and continued to work together over the years in the ED and with the Emergency Nurse Association. His legacy is woven into the lives of many people. Wishing you peace. Sincerely, Beth McFarland

Elizabeth McFarland - February 09, 2024 at 09:47 PM

VC

“ My condolences and prayers to Karen and the Oxler Family. He was a great and thoughtful man. I will never forget the care and assistance he gave to me. Two years ago during my surgical and recovery time from Prostate Cancer Surgery. Stay Blessed, Karen.

Vince Covington

Vince Covington - February 06, 2024 at 03:32 PM

LH

“ Thoughts and prayers to Karen and Lizzy. I have taught with Steve for many years at various military health care facilities. We had so much fun. Always enjoyed hearing his stories that he was shared with the students that brought topics to life.

Linda Hill - February 04, 2024 at 10:20 PM

DJ

My condolences and prayers to Karen and the Oxler Family. Dr Oxler contributed very significantly in the field of medicine, will be remembered with an honor and will be missed.

Darshana Jhala - February 10, 2024 at 01:07 AM

AL

“ An amazing emergency medicine physician, educator and overall outstanding person. Every patient, student and colleague who had contact with Dr. Oxler walked away better because of him.

Andy Lovell - February 01, 2024 at 04:59 PM

EC

“ Firstly I would like to send my condolences to Dr. Oxlers family. He was an amazing man whom I had the pleasure of having as a professor last year at Rowan for a course on disasters. Dr. Oxler was my absolute favorite professor and a light to anyone that had the pleasure of taking a course with him.

Emily Concordia - January 31, 2024 at 06:16 PM

RC

“ It was heartbreaking to learn that my partner-in-crime and Facebook hero, Dr Steve Oxler had departed this life for the next. Dr Steve was my first supporter in the community as I started work for his wife and my boss Retired RADM Karen Flaherty-Oxler. As I managed the Philly VA’s social media pages, there were bullies, rude and crude commenters and whiners who would test me and my patience, but to my rescue came Dr Steve who would tag me off, jump into the social media ring and take them out saying what I couldn’t without fear of reprisal (except from both our boss, his wife!) He would take the hit from her, but jump right back in the fray as my defender and hero! God take care of and appreciate this jewel of a man you created! Veterans Day Parades will no longer be the same. Dr Steve would join us for several years in the Philly Veterans Day parade, until his health had him watching from home, the last two years, but his spirit was there and I always sent messages home to him through his wife. As a former sportswriter, I enjoyed talking boxing with him and hear his ringside tales, oh what a glorious life God favored him with: an adoring wife of 40 years, an accomplished “mini-me” daughter who shared his love of sports and the personal joy of knowing he had trained up future healthcare professionals and educated and illuminated hundreds of minds during his life’s journey! The world is a bit dimmer without his light, but Heaven is brighter with him there. May God strengthen, comfort and keep Karen, Lizzie and all of their family in His tender loving care! You remain lifted up! Rita Chappelle

Rita Chappelle - January 28, 2024 at 05:51 PM

PR

“ He was always greeted others with a smile. He was a positive light sitting ringside. He will be missed!

Prairie Rugilo - January 21, 2024 at 09:45 AM

SK

“ We had the opportunity to work with Steve in the 1980s. We were all part of the American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiac Life Support program in New Jersey. He was a respected emergency physician, a great teacher, and a genuinely nice guy with a great sense of humor. He will be missed by many.

Natalie and Skip Kirkwood

Skip Kirkwood - January 17, 2024 at 05:58 PM

MB

“ Prayers continue for the family as they work through their loss. God Bless all of them.

Mark Brouker - January 16, 2024 at 04:09 PM

Jay
Stiefel

“ I have known Steve since I was a teenager training as a paramedic. He was an exceptional person, a wonderful role model and an excellent physician. I also had the opportunity to work side by side with him in the emergency department as a physician and I loved every minute of it. He will certainly be missed. My personal condolences to Karen and Lizi. Jay Stiefel



Jay Stiefel - January 16, 2024 at 02:47 PM

LF

“ One of my favorite memories of Dr. Oxler was in Panama. We were doing a humanitarian medical mission to the indigenous people there. When we weren't actually working, we were at the Hilton in Panama City. Which had a casino.. Many an evening we were in the casino playing with the Doc loudly stating "I love the jungle!". He will be missed.

Larry Pratt, FH20 - January 15, 2024 at 07:53 PM

NL

“ Steve was a superb ringside physician with the NJSACB at our boxing and MMA events but an even better person. He was a trusted and beloved fixture at events. He cannot be replaced

Nick Lembo - January 15, 2024 at 06:19 PM