



# Marlin P. Krenz M.D.

JUL 27, 1928 - MAR 7, 2017



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## **Marlin P. Krenz M.D.**

JUL 27, 1928 - MAR 7, 2017

**M**arlin Paul Krenz, 88, of Norton Shores, died Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at Sanctuary at the Oaks, Muskegon, Michigan. He was born July 27, 1928 in Litchville, North Dakota to Carl Krenz and Amalia (Kolke) Krenz. Marlin grew up on a farm homesteaded by his father. With many opportunities to learn self-sufficiency, he started driving himself to school at ten years old. Inspired young by a physician who cared for him, he decided to become a doctor. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota and his M.D. from Northwestern Medical School, where, although mentored by renowned neurosurgeon Loyal Davis, he elected ophthalmology as his future. Most importantly, upon graduation, he went to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he met the nurse who became his lifelong love, Joan. They were married April 1, 1956, beginning a marriage that would last 60 years. After an Alaska tour in the US Air Force and a time in Chicago for Marlin's ophthalmology residency, the family moved to Muskegon, where he opened his practice. Over a 30-year career, he was beloved by his patients and known for his surgical precision and his caring bedside manner — he continued, for example, to make house calls long after they were out of style. He also served as Hackley Hospital Chief of Staff during a tumultuous period. Marlin was profoundly proud of his children and their spouses and thrilled with his grandchildren, who always made him light up with joy. He was passionate about the house on Lake Michigan that he and Joan designed, constantly improving it and meeting the challenges of the lake. He played piano beautifully by ear alone, a talent that provided much joy for his loved ones and himself, especially in retirement. Proud of his calling as a medical scientist, Marlin was also a man of faith, active in St. Mark Lutheran Church. He is survived by his children, Gary Dean Krenz, of Chelsea, MI, and Debra Jo Dance, of Cincinnati, OH; his daughter-in-law, Barbara (Wheeler) Krenz; his son-in-law, William Dance; and his four grandchildren, Brian Matteson Krenz, Christopher



## Obituary

**Marlin P. Krenz M.D.**




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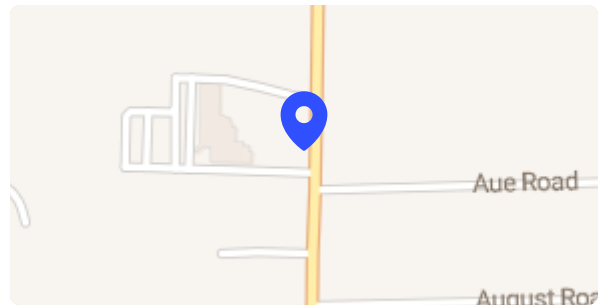
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Dean Krenz, Benjamin Thomas Dance, and Samantha Jo Dance. He spent his last years deeply devoted to caring for his dear Joanie, and in the end he could not wait long to hold her hand again. Visitation and memorial service will be Saturday, March 11, 2017 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 4475 Henry St, Norton Shores, MI 49441, with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM, followed by the memorial service at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Sanctuary at the Oaks, where the caregivers made a real difference in his life (1740 Village Drive, Muskegon, MI 49442), or to St. Mark Lutheran Church. Share memories with the family at their On-line Guest Book at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com) Arrangements by The Sytsema Chapel, 737 Apple Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442, (231) 726-5210.






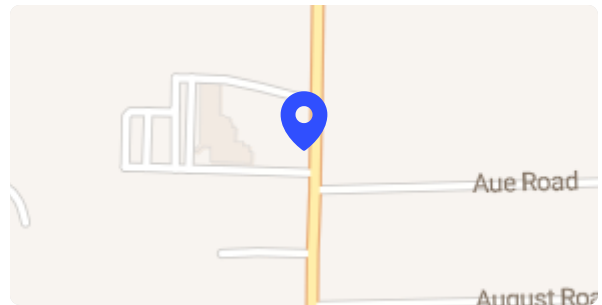
## Visitation

-  **Saturday**, March 11, 2017
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
4475 Henry St., Norton Shores MI




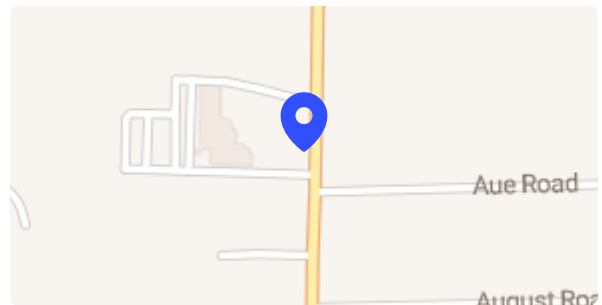
## Memorial Service

-  **Saturday**, March 11, 2017
-  11:00 AM ET
-  **St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
4475 Henry St., Norton Shores MI



## Cemetery Details

-  **St. Mark Memorial Wall**  
4475 Henry Street, Norton Shores MI 49441





## Tribute Wall

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DS

**Don And Maryann Scofield** lit a candle in honor of Marlin.

We send our deepest sympathy to all of you. Your Father was a wonderful caring person. We always enjoyed the time we spent with both of your parents. What I remember the most was, when we shared political e-mails and sitting at the piano with your Father as he played his favorite tunes by ear as I could not. He will be missed by all. Blessings to the family.



March 13 at 7:39 AM

DL

**Dardinella Dolly Bacon Lewis** posted:

Dr. Krenz was my Doctor. I was first introduced to him at the age of 15 months old in the Hackley Hospital emergency room. He wanted to keep a close watch on my strange eye condition and so he saw me in his office every day for about 6 months. Eventually the visits changed to every other day, to three times a week, to twice a month, and so forth. I remember him helping me up into that big chair, and him saying to me "place your chin here". The care that he shown towards me was as though I was his daughter. As I became a young adult, no matter what day of the week if I called complaining about eye pain he saw me right away. He was very caring for my eye and that made me feel like I was his most important patient. As an adult, I moved to Texas but I returned to Muskegon for my annual visits. Our last conversation was me telling him how afraid I was to trust someone else with my eye care. And he said "Dolly it will be alright, when you find someone in Texas, have them to contact my office and I will give them my history with your eye." I thanked him and he gave me a hug. Dr. Krenz was a loving man, blessed to be able to touch so many lives. To the family, thank you for allowing your dad to take care of my eye, while you were having your evening dinners, Saturday family events and activities, and even on Sundays when He had to leave to see a patient named Dolly Bacon. Because of his care, although I am blind in my left eye, my eye looks normal and it's because God saw fit to place my beloved Dr. Krenz in Muskegon because there was a little girl that was going to need him. Thank you, and I will be praying for your strength during this time of loss. Dardinella "Dolly" Bacon Lewis 53 years old.

March 12 at 1:29 PM



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**Barbara Krenz** posted:

Marlin was a sweet soul. I met him as my ophthalmologist years before I met his son, Gary, now my husband of 36 years. I miss Marlin, but am so glad that he and Joanie are together again. I will never forget how bonded they were in their Alzheimer's, Joanie asking, "This way?" as they walked down the hall hand in hand, and he answering, "Yes, sweetheart, this is the way." Thank you to the staff at The Oaks who were amazing in their loving, caring, personal professionalism. You gave them a wonderful place to be when they could no longer be at home. Thanks also to my sister, Mary Jo, who was there for them when we could not be. You made more of a difference than you may ever know. My heart goes out to you, Gary and Debbie. Love you, Barb

March 9 at 4:30 PM



JS

**Julie Spahn** posted:

I will always be grateful for the kindness and generosity that Dr. and Mrs. Krenz showed my family. My mom, Joni, worked with Dr. Krenz for nearly three decades. I always loved to visit the office on Peck Street; I would wind my way back to the lounge where I could find hot chocolate. I still remember that big painting with all the employee caricatures. They sure did have a great team. Dr. Krenz was a wonderful leader. He had a beautiful heart. He was so good to our family. May perpetual light shine upon him; he was an extraordinary man. He also had great taste in cars. We all loved his convertibles.

March 9 at 6:02 AM

GK

**Gary Krenz** March 9 at 4:36 PM

Thank you, Julie. Dad thought the world of your mom and she made a huge difference for the success of his medical practice. He used to talk about how much he relied on her and how incredibly capable she was. And yes, his convertibles were great!

BK

**Barb Krenz** March 9 at 11:36 AM

Marlin was a sweet soul. I met him as my ophthalmologist years before I met his son, Gary, now my husband of 36 years. I miss Marlin, but am so glad that he and Joanie are together again. I will never forget how bonded they were in their Alzheimer's, Joanie asking, "This way?" as they walked down the hall hand in hand, and he answering, "Yes, sweetheart, this is the way." Thank you to the staff at The Oaks who were amazing in their loving, caring, personal professionalism. You gave them a wonderful place to be when they could no longer be at home. Thanks also to my sister, Mary Jo, who was there for them when we could not be. You made more of a difference than you may ever know. My heart goes out to you, Gary and Debbie. Love you, Barb

DE

**Debbie** March 9 at 6:45 AM

Julie, Thanks for the memories! The office really was a fun place to go and the staff was truly family! The family of Marlin Krenz



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JE

**Jessica** posted:

Although I was very young when I knew Dr. Krenz, he changed my life. I remember visiting his office as a child, and always being excited to see him. He treated all of his patients and their families with kindness. Dr. Krenz performed my life changing eye surgery 25 years ago, I have so much gratitude for him. As I grew older, my mom told me how horrible some people would be, with unintentionally hurtful comments about my eyes. My mom endured numerous painful remarks from people at the grocery store, or shocked expressions from strangers in our day to day lives. Dr. Krenz provided my mom with hope, and emotional support. He earned my family's trust with his empathy and expertise. I will be forever grateful for everything he has done for me- as looking at me now, you would never be able to tell I had any type of abnormality. My story is just one of thousands that illustrate the positive impact Dr. Krenz had on our community. My condolences and prayers are with his family.

March 8 at 3:16 PM

DE

**Debbie** March 9 at 2:52 AM

Jessica -Thank you for sharing your story about dad. That means so much to us!The family of Marlin Krenz



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Marlin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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