



Mark Stephen Mason MD

March 30, 1947 - March 26, 2018

Dr. Mark Stephen Mason passed away on Monday, March 26th at his home in Haymarket, Virginia, with his family at his side: his wife of 39 years, Dr. Marsha Mason, his two daughters, Kelly Mason and Allison Mason Diamond, and his son, Dr. Mark Stephen Mason, Jr. After he was diagnosed with liver cancer, he fought with courage and determination for every month of his life.

Mark was born on March 30, 1947 in Washington, D.C. He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles N. Mason and Mabel Mason, and is survived by all three of his older brothers: Charles “Chuck” Mason, Gary Mason, and Kent Mason.

Even as a young boy, Mark knew that he wanted to be a doctor. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, he completed his surgical internship and then Masters in Surgery at the University of Virginia, then completed his surgical residency and vascular surgery fellowship at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where he met and fell in love with Marsha, a pediatric resident who would become his wife a year after they met.

Mark practiced as a general surgeon for 30 years—he was known not only for his skill in the operating room, but for the compassion, kindness, and humor that he showed his patients. Mark embraced being a physician as an

opportunity to help people. Before his residency, he spent several months on a medical mission in Kenya. Once he “retired” from practicing medicine, Mark again offered his time and expertise for free, serving on the board and volunteering both locally, at the Prince William Free Clinic, as well as internationally, with Medical Missionaries. He made the long trip to rural Haiti several times, caring for people and performing surgeries in one of the poorest parts of the world.

Mark adored the outdoors, especially the mountains. Though he traveled all over to behold the world’s wonders, there were two places that held special significance in Mark’s heart: his family’s cherished property in the Blue Ridge Mountains, where he built his dream cabin six years ago, and Montana, where he traveled every year without fail to visit longtime family friends, keep his hunting skills sharp, and ride his dun paint horse, Libby.

Mark’s passions were many and varied: he was a longtime hunter, which he loved primarily because it fulfilled his desire to be outside and quietly observe his favorite animals; an avid collector of “cool stuff” including coins, pocket watches, and vintage books; an insatiable reader who could share both the most arcane details and helpful advice on everything from American history to nature to medicine to the financial markets.

Though he had many passions, Mark’s greatest love was his family. His approach to being a father was to give his daughters and son every opportunity to thrive and pursue their dreams—and while he never told them which path to take, his children cherished his perspective, advice, thoughtful words and memorable hugs. He traveled all over the world, sometimes with his kids but always with his wife at his side. In the last two years alone, Mark and Marsha traveled to Iceland, French Polynesia, the Caribbean, the Pacific Northwest, Niagara Falls, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and Kentucky horse country. In the last year of his life, Mark walked both of his daughters down the aisle to

marry their husbands. He was a one-of-a kind husband and father: dedicated, funny, strong, and kind.

Services will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Haymarket, Virginia at 3 PM on Sunday, April 1st. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mark's memory to the Inova Schar Cancer Institute at the Inova Health Foundation, the Prince William Area Free Clinic, or the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 1. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6750 Fayette Street
Haymarket, VA 20169

Tribute Wall



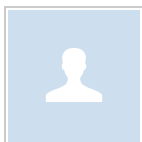
“ I am so sorry to learn about Mark. He was a good friend -- as was Marsha -- and a favorite workout buddy when I lived in Manassas. (I have been living in Portugal and Spain for the past seven years.) My heartfelt condolences to the family.

Bruce Joffe - August 19, 2024 at 11:41 AM



“ Steve and I just now found out about Mark's passing - We send out heartfelt condolences to you Marsha, and your family - We always enjoyed Mark's company, and your family was a gift to our neighborhood here at Fox Ridge. Please know we keep you in our hearts and prayers. Steve & Linda Unthank

Linda Unthank - April 07, 2018 at 01:01 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mark Stephen Mason MD.



March 30, 2018 at 04:13 PM

TN

“ We began knowing Mark as a cousin. Over the years he became a close and valued friend. We traded visits to Virginia and Massachusetts, went for more walks than I can recount, and watched endless hours of sports on TV.

He loved to debate politics. His mind ran broad and deep. He was very bright and self-confident without being arrogant. And he could be won over by a carefully-reasoned argument. In the end, what felt right in his heart always won out.

He was generous in spirit to his family, friends and community. He volunteered his impressive surgical skills in Haiti. His patients recognized his kindness and adored him.

He tutored me in finance. To this day, I quote "Cousin Mark."

It is said that the measure of a man is what he leaves behind. Marsha, Kelly, Alison and Steven are all remarkable, strong, and enduring people----a testimony to Mark as a husband and father. All are generous, kind and share a passion for what is right and good. This is what we think is Mark's most impressive of many legacies. And we miss him.

Toby Nagurney, Wendy Mariner, Justine Nagurney

toby nagurney - March 30, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Stephen Mason MD.



March 30, 2018 at 12:43 PM

MH

“ Although I never went hunting with Mark we talked about hunting and the outdoors nearly every time we had a chance. Our favorite conversations revolved around the bears that lived on and around the Jewel Hollow property adjacent to the Shenandoah Park. Mark christened the property "Bear Creek" because the black bears prowled up and down the small tributaries on the property flipping rocks and looking for critters to eat.

There is one bear in particular which was known as "The Big Guy" who had the run of the property, making adjustments to lawn furniture, shredding expensive shrubbery and ensuring that his presence was known who became a fond friend and, sometimes foe over the past several years.

Mark's favorite encounter involving "The Big Guy" occurred when both Mark and "The Big Guy" met with little warning one day on the gravel driveway on the side of the house and both Mark and "The Big Guy" briefly met, face to face, made eye contact, and both of them beat a hasty retreat in opposite directions.

That is my fondest memory

Mike Higgins

Mike Higgins - March 30, 2018 at 09:48 AM

KM

“ We miss him greatly but Mark lives on through all of us...He will not be forgotten... He is inside our hearts. Kent



Kent Mason - March 29, 2018 at 10:08 PM

SS

“ Dr. Mark Mason was a kind, generous and amazing surgeon who had an incredible sense of humor and warmth. I met him through his wife, Dr. Marsha Mason... who hired me to be a part of her Manassas Pediatrics Practice and inspired me to be the best pediatric nurse practitioner I could hope to be. Marsha and Mark shared an amazing love story and I feel so privileged to know both of them.

Brian, Kate, Sam and I will miss Dr. Mark and send our love to Allison, Kelley, Stephen and your friends and loved ones!

Marsha, there are no words that I can think of that truly express my feelings of sorrow but know I will be praying for you to find peace and healing

Sandra Stewart - March 28, 2018 at 10:34 PM