



Leo A. Lucas, MD

March 22, 2017

Leo A. Lucas, MD (born Algirdis Leonas Zukauskas), age 91, passed away Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks after a brief illness.

He was born in Siauliai, Lithuania to parents Charles Koris and Maria Vambutas Koris. He and his family were forced to flee their home in 1941 when Russia invaded the Baltic States, and just barely escaped being deported to Siberia. He was only 15. During this chaotic time, his parents and two brothers were separated and none of them knew if the rest had survived. Leo was conscripted into a German work-camp, but one night just walked away, scaled a cliff and escaped into Switzerland. He eventually completed his medical school training in Bern, Switzerland. An unknown Lithuanian US citizen sponsored Leo, allowing him to travel to the US, vouching for his entry into this country. Leo was fortunate to find a Medical Internship position at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, where he worked long hours to complete his medical training. During this time, Leo heard from a cousin that his parents and brothers were alive and had safely made it to the US.

In Boston, he met his wife, Jean L. Lowry. After they married, he continued his training in Madison, Wisconsin, became a US citizen, and then joined the US Army, serving this country for 2 years. They subsequently moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he opened a private medical office and practiced Internal Medicine for the next 35 years. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. He and Jean raised three children in Ohio.

Leo is pre-deceased by his parents, Charles and Maria Vambutas Koris, his brother Bruno Koris, and his wife, Jean L. Lowry Lucas.

Those left to cherish his memory include his brother, Rimas Koris (Seattle, WA), and his 3 children, Deborah M. Lucas, MD (Richard Lewis), Salisbury; Linda L. Mullis (Wayne), Salisbury; Paul L. Lucas (Karin), Minneapolis, MN. He has 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren: Samuel Lewis, Salisbury; Michael Benson (Kait) and infant Annabelle, Wesley Ingham, and Haleigh Ingham, Chillicothe, Ohio; and JP Lucas (Heather), and Nicholas Lucas (Brianna) and infant Henry, New Brighton, MN.

Leo loved nature, being outdoors, hiking, fishing, hunting and bird watching. He would find wild flowers and unusual plants and cultivate them. He was an advocate for the arts and appreciated fine paintings, sculpture, symphony, orchestra and folk music. He himself was an artist and painted with oils, acrylic, water color, and made linoleum block prints with intricate designs, carved duck decoys, and refinished old furniture.

He also was an extensive traveler with deep curiosity about other countries and cultures, and had been all around the world.

He instilled the awe of nature, an appreciation for the arts, and a sense of responsibility to preserve the earth in all of his children.

Quote: "Absorb the beauty from the stars and the juices from the earth, squeezing from life as much as you can. Life does not last long. Do not worry about the dead; they do not suffer. Inspire your children to do the same".

Arrangements: Memorial service plans are pending. Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the Lucas family.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Memory of Leo A. Lucas, MD to: The Salisbury-Rowan Symphony Orchestra PO Box 4264 Salisbury, NC 28145 or the Water Works Visual Arts Center 123 E Liberty St, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Debbie, Linda and Paul, So sorry to hear about your dad. He was a great doctor and a good friend to our family. (what a good sense of humor!) God's blessings to you and your families....

Fondly,
Barb Dingledine

Barbara Dingledine - March 27, 2017 at 08:17 AM

PG

“ Linda, I am so sorry to hear about your dad. He was a kind, intelligent, and always had something interesting to talk about. He knew many things and had been so many places and shared so many stories, art, and good wine with me. I am so glad I met him. Love to you and your kids. Paulette Gerz

Paulette Gerz - March 26, 2017 at 09:25 PM

DG

“ I'm Don Glendenin and Leo was one of my hunting buddies. We were elk hunting in the Bitterroot Wilderness and Leo had a Sierra cup. Jack Gould, Paul Andorfer and I bought a fake cup and shot it full of holes and Leo thought it was his. The next day we gave him back his real cup. That Christmas we each found a Sierra cup hanging on our doors Christmas morning. The next year we were elk hunting in Colorado but this time we shot his real cup full of holes! He was again very upset with us until we presented him with a copper Sierra cup engraved from all of us. He actually cried. Leo will be missed by me but he can talk of old times now with Jack and Paul. I also remember the beautiful wood ducks he carved and painted. I can still hear him talking about his beloved "Cheanie"

Don Glendenin - March 26, 2017 at 04:25 PM

PL

Thanks Don for sharing. He used that cup on a Boundary Waters canoe trip with my family. During happy hour one evening he placed his cup containing bourbon on a log next where he was sitting. It subsequently fell, spilling its contents onto the ground. He nearly cried then too! He was a wonderful father and will be greatly missed!

Paul Lucas - March 27, 2017 at 04:58 PM

HG

“ *Linda, Paul and Debbie,
Hal Goodrich from Springfield here. What great memories I have of our shared years of fun and friendship on Woodrow Dr. Who can forget the Yule log pranks and the milk punch parties. I still have your dads carved duck at our Michigan home. Our thoughts are with you for your loss. We loved Leo as not only as a compassionate family physician but as a renaissance man to look up to.
Hal And Beth Goodrich*

Hal Goodrich - March 25, 2017 at 08:46 PM