



Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD

June 26, 1930 - March 1, 2025

Joseph McLaughlin passed peacefully in his sleep on March 1, 2025, surrounded by family. He was 94 years old. He and his brother John were raised by their mother Ada McLaughlin during the Great Depression. Their father had tragically died in an automobile accident. He attended School #64 in Forrest Park and graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. A strong athlete, he was on the wrestling and lacrosse teams at Loyola College. In 1949 he was the starting goalie in the national championship game, losing to Hopkins 12 to 8. Matriculating to the University of Maryland School of Medicine, he graduated at the top of his class. Continuing his education at the University of Maryland, he completed his General and Cardiovascular surgery training there. After receiving a Markle Scholarship, he spent one year at Yale and then two years at the National Heart Institute at NIH. He finished his training at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland with the distinguished transplant surgeon Sir Michael Woodruff. Dr. McLaughlin returned to the University of Maryland as a member of the surgical faculty, where he excelled. He wrote the original grant and was the first Clinical Director of the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

He was chosen as the Chairman of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, a position he held for thirty years. As a clinician and scientist, he performed 15,000 cardiac surgical procedures on children and adults and published 250 abstracts and papers in medical journals. Dr. McLaughlin trained over 60 talented women and men to become cardiac surgeons, many of whom are still

in practice today. Dr. McLaughlin retired from surgery at the age of 70. During his surgical career, he served on the Board of the American Heart Association and was President of the Thoracic Surgeons Program Directors Association for the United States and Canada. Dr. McLaughlin was awarded the State of Maryland Governor's Citation on three separate occasions. One, for his decades of service to the Mission Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. The second for his collaboration with the University of Maryland for establishing the first cardiac Surgery Program in Karachi, Pakistan. The third citation was for leading a team of surgeon volunteers to Kuwait during the first Gulf War. Following his surgical career, Dr. McLaughlin received his Masters of Business and Hospital Administration degree from Harvard University. He returned to the University of Maryland and worked in the Dean's office. He stepped down from the position at the age of 78 but continued on as the Editor in Chief of the University of Maryland Medical Bulletin, fully retiring at the age of 88. In total, Dr. McLaughlin was a member of the University of Maryland medical community for 66 years.

Dr. McLaughlin enjoyed a vigorous retirement. He and his wife Irene, a teacher of children with reading disabilities, established a program for disadvantaged children. For her work, Irene was also awarded a Governor's Citation. In retirement, Dr. McLaughlin was most proud of his work with wounded soldiers returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. He welcomed these heroes into his home and helped prepare them for their next stage in life.

Prior to his death, recognizing a lifetime of service, Dr. McLaughlin was presented as an Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay, the highest honor bestowed by the state of Maryland.

Dr. McLaughlin was preceded in death by his father Joseph McLaughlin, his mother Ada McLaughlin, his wife Irene, his brother Captain John McLaughlin and his son Sean. He is survived by his sons Joseph, John, Jeffrey (Sherri) and beloved grandson, Joseph.

The family will receive guests and friends on Friday, March 7th from 6pm until

8pm at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S. Harrison St. Easton, MD. A funeral service at the funeral home will take place on Saturday, March 8th at 11am. Interment will follow at Oxford Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Joseph and Irene McLaughlin Professorship of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Lombard and Greene Streets, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Cemetery Details

Oxford Cemetery

Oxford Cemetery Rd
Oxford, MD 21654

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (est)

Easton Location
200 S Harrison St
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (Est)

Easton Location
200 S Harrison St
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Aimee G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.

Aimee G. - March 15, 2025 at 08:08 AM

MB

“ Dr. Jeff and Mrs. Mc Laughlin
Sending my deepest sympathies to you at the loss of this amazing man.
Marcia Broeren Appleton WI

Marcia and Dale Broeren - March 08, 2025 at 12:52 PM

RS

“ I worked as a Nurse at University of Maryland with Dr McLaughlin. He was one of the first doctors I ever worked with who taught me so much that it carried me through my almost 50 years in nursing. He was wonderful to work with and a fantastic doctor. I'm very saddened by his passing and will remember him with fond memories. My condolences to the family.

Rita Scheinin - March 07, 2025 at 11:31 PM

LK

“ Dr Jeff and Sherri, My sympathy to you and your family
Lynn Klemmer. OshkWI

Lynn Klemmer - March 07, 2025 at 12:09 PM

AS

“ Alex Sequeira purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



Alex Sequeira - March 06, 2025 at 11:16 AM

AS

“ Alex Sequeira planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.

Alex Sequeira - March 06, 2025 at 11:16 AM

SG

“ My dad worked at Hog Island Gunning Club and took Dr. McLaughlin hunting for many years. My Dad always spoke highly of him and shared many memories about their hunting experiences. I met Dr. McLaughlin when I was younger during a hunting day at the hunting club. May he rest in peace and I'm sure he is with my father in heaven.



Steve Gadow - March 05, 2025 at 02:55 PM

RH

“ Rita Hill lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD



Rita Hill - March 05, 2025 at 11:59 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



March 05, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.

March 05, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ *Nancy Smith and Alison Smith* purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



Nancy Smith and Alison Smith - March 04, 2025 at 11:50 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



March 04, 2025 at 09:57 AM

KM

“ Joe I will always remember you as a Mentor and friend : working w you all those years was truly an honor Diane and I will never forget the kindnesses you and Irene shared w us: you will be missed!

krasna mark - March 04, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ Pure Heart was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



March 04, 2025 at 06:41 AM

FG

“ Faye Gadow lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD



Faye Gadow - March 03, 2025 at 08:22 PM

NS

“ Nancy Smith purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.



Nancy Smith - March 03, 2025 at 04:29 PM

NS

“ Nancy Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD.

Nancy Smith - March 03, 2025 at 04:29 PM

JS

“ Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD



Jeanette Stubbs - March 03, 2025 at 10:05 AM

TL

“ Tammy And Matt Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Sheffer McLaughlin, MD



Tammy And Matt Larrimore - March 03, 2025 at 08:30 AM