



## Robert J Baker

February 17, 1927 - July 16, 2022

Robert J. (Bob) Baker, of Oxford, MD, passed away peacefully at home on July 16, 2022. He was 95.

Bob was born on February 17, 1927, in Chicago, IL, the son of the late Max and Rae Baker. He earned an AB from Miami University, Oxford, OH; BS from University of Illinois, Chicago; and MD from University of Illinois, Chicago. He was a veteran of the Korean War, having served as a first lieutenant (medical officer) in the US Army in Korea. He was decorated with the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

He is survived by his cherished wife of 64 years, Juanita, and their three children, Mark Baker (Mary Kay), Brian Baker, and Julie Nahil (Chris). He is also survived by five grandchildren—Stephanie Zita (Jonathan), Caroline Harju (Alex), Matt Baker (Danielle), Emmett Nahil, and Lili Nahil—and six great-grandchildren.

Bob had a rich career as a surgeon and an educator, the latter being the role he especially valued. He was four times awarded the Raymond B. Allen Award for Excellence in Student Instruction from University of Illinois College of Medicine. He was the author of more than 100 professional publications and was co-editor of the seminal, two-volume textbook, *Mastery of Surgery*. Bob served in a variety of leadership positions throughout his career, including

Professor and Vice-Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine; Chairman of Department of Surgery, Medical Center of Delaware; and Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of General Surgery, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago. Bob was also especially well-known as a specialist in trauma surgery, having served as the Director of Surgery and Chief of Trauma Unit, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL.

After his retirement in 2000, Bob and Juanita became full-time residents of Oxford, MD, sharing many beautiful memories with their family on the waters of the Chesapeake. He was a longtime parishioner at Trinity Cathedral (Easton, MD) and Fourth Presbyterian Church (Chicago). Bob was a lifelong sailor, clock collector, wine enthusiast, and dog lover.

Services will be held privately and limited to family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Greater Chicago Food Depository ([chicagosfoodbank.com](http://chicagosfoodbank.com)), Talbot Humane Society ([talbothumane.org](http://talbothumane.org)), or Talbot Hospice Foundation ([talbothospice.org](http://talbothospice.org)).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert J Baker*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Robert J Baker*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Robert J Baker*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

SM

“ I first met Bob when I was a medical student at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and he inspired me to enter the surgical training program at Cook County Hospital. He was strikingly handsome, and his surgical skills were legion. The surgical residents were in absolute awe of his talents. One particular incident stood out. A surgical resident who prided himself on his speed with his scalpel, announced that he would complete the removal of the patient's gall bladder (including wound closure) in less than twenty minutes. (The patient was exceptionally thin.) All eyes were watching the second hand of the clock as it reached 12. The surgeon had the skin under tension and drew the blade across the back of his own hand, severing several extensor tendons. The assistant surgeon took over the operation and Dr. Baker was summoned to repair the self-inflicted tendon damages. Dr. Baker and the resident were in the adjacent O.R. and we could here Bob asking the mortified surgical resident if he knew what he wanted to do when he grew-up! We could barely contain our laughter. By the way, the assistant surgeon completed the procedure without complication and the patient had an uneventful recovery. I do not recall the ultimate fate of the resident.

---

Steven Sapkin, M.D. - October 07, 2022 at 12:14 AM