



Dr. Ronald C. Couch

June 19, 1943 - May 11, 2019

Dr. Ronald C. Couch of Chestertown, Maryland passed away surrounded by his family on

Saturday, May 11, 2019 at Kent General Hospital in Dover, DE. He was 75.

Ron was born in the Kentmont Holler Coal Mine Camp where his father became a second generation coal miner. Even with limited resources, he and his sister loved living there because they were such a tight-knit community. Living in the camp, he learned the value of hard work and creativity. At an early age, he acquired his love for learning and valued education. Excelling academically, he was promoted directly to high school from the 6th grade. Never saying no to a challenge, Ron and his friends worked hard to establish the first football team while attending Dilce Combs Memorial High. He worked very hard to purchase his first car by raising gardens and selling produce on the side of the road. He also loved foreign languages and taught himself how to speak both Russian and Latin.

After completing a double major in biology and chemistry, he was accepted into a newly established doctoral program in Toxicology at the University of Kentucky, becoming the first student to complete a Ph.D. in the program. He accepted a Postdoc position with Standard Oil of Ohio, subsequently leaving to accept a position with New Mexico State University at the Primate Research Institute (PRI). He established a very successful career in

pharmaceutical and biomedical research, publishing many research articles in scientific journals while working at PRI and as President of the Coulston Primate Research Foundation. Later in his career, he became interested in researching infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Monkey Pox, Anthrax, and Hepatitis A & B.

Outside of a very prestigious research career, he lived a very private life, was an avid reader, an excellent dancer, loved horses, and loved his family unconditionally. People who met Ron were immediately struck by his exceptional kindness and humility.

Ron was also proud of his wife's accomplishments and was always interested in her work and the many challenges that came with it. He was the first person to inspire her to become a school leader and willingly forfeited his time with her so that she could meet the many demands of her job. He was a cheerleader for his wife and always encouraged her to stretch beyond her comfort zone. He was undoubtedly the rock of his family and will be forever missed.

Ron is survived by his wife of 34 years: Dr. Karen Couch; children: Dr. Ronald N. Couch, Courtney Couch, Alexia Couch, Monika Couch; grandchildren: Abigail Porcher, Devon Campbell, Gavin Couch, Ainsley Couch; and a sister; Linda Matouk.

He was preceded in death by son, Frank Porcher.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

He became very passionate about the Kent County Public Schools Technology Program, most recently taking it upon himself to learn the programming language, Python. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the KCPS Technology Camp Fund c/o KCPS Board of Education 5608

Boundary Ave. Rock Hall, MD 21661.

Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home

Chestertown, MD

www.fhnfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Ronald C. Couch*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. Ronald C. Couch*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. Ronald C. Couch*

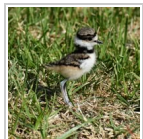
January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Karen Couch - June 05, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ *Pam Teat lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch*



Pam Teat - May 20, 2019 at 11:34 PM

PS

“ Karen and family,
Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family
at this sad time. A brilliant light has left this world but our loss is
heaven's gain. God bless and keep you all.
Pat Severe

Pat Severe - May 16, 2019 at 10:50 AM

SM

“ SUSAN MARTINEZ lit a candle in memory of
Dr. Ronald C. Couch



SUSAN MARTINEZ - May 15, 2019 at 11:24 AM

DR

“ Doug and Retha purchased the Angels Watch - P
eaceful Reflections Angel for the family of Dr.
Ronald C. Couch.



Doug and Retha - May 14, 2019 at 03:57 PM

DK

“ Dr. Andrea M. Kane lit a candle in memory of
Dr. Ronald C. Couch



Dr. Andrea M. Kane - May 13, 2019 at 08:07 PM

AK

Praying for peace and comfort for Karen and the Couch family.

Andrea M. Kane

Andrea M. Kane - May 13, 2019 at 08:12 PM

BB

“ *Karen and Family,
I am so truly sorry for your loss.
Barbara Baker*

Barbara Baker - May 13, 2019 at 12:43 PM

KG

“ *The Couch family is in my thoughts and
prayers! God Bless you all! Kelly Griffith*



Kelly Griffith - May 13, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ *Gina Scalzo-Jachimowicz lit a candle in
memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch*



Gina Scalzo-Jachimowicz - May 13, 2019 at 10:28 AM

CT

“ Chris & Jane Towers lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch



Chris & Jane Towers - May 13, 2019 at 09:36 AM

MR

“ Max & Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch



Max & Maryann Ruehrmund - May 13, 2019 at 08:45 AM

TS

“ Terri Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch



Terri Smith - May 13, 2019 at 08:08 AM

JP

“ Janet Pauls lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ronald C. Couch



Janet Pauls - May 12, 2019 at 10:03 PM