



Col. (Ret.) Martin L. Nusynowitz, M.D.

July 21, 1933 - March 18, 2024

Martin L. Nusynowitz, M.D., loving husband, father and Zaide, passed away on March 18, 2024. He was the paterfamilias—and acclaimed physician, esteemed academician, career army officer, witty raconteur, intrepid traveler and nimble dancer. He loved a party and having his picture taken. He was a polyglot, a certified hula instructor, and a talented painter and photographer. He was a first generation American and had a Yiddishe kup.

Daddy was the eldest son of Morris Nusynowitz and Esther Rechtschaffen Nusynowitz, born July 21, 1933, in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. His genius for science was revealed early; he was dubbed “Test-tube” by his classmates at P.S. 28. When the renowned Bronx High School of Science extended admission to him, the family moved up to that borough. While he graduated at the top of his class, his mother was disappointed that he never won the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

When he attended NYU, he met the captivating Harriet Rubinstein, his intellectual match. They married shortly thereafter and moved to Syracuse where he attended medical school. He joined the military for his residency in internal medicine; in the U.S. Army where he received training in Nuclear Medicine—and became a giant in his field, even establishing the nation’s first training program for the discipline. Daddy (and Mom) loved army life; he took to its order and rose through the ranks.

During his career, he was stationed at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco, where eldest son Murray was born. Tripler Hospital in Honolulu came next, as did children numbers two and three, Russell and Leah. It was their move to William Beaumont Hospital in Ft. Bliss in 1965, that marked the establishment of his reputation as a brilliant diagnostician and respected leader. Entertaining and merrymaking were constants: luaus, costume parties, square dance outings (his group of physicians and their spouses were the Pi R Squares) and Jewish holidays. He sailed his sloop on Lake Ascarate and Elephant Butte and rode his trusty horse Hurry Dan at Indian Cliffs Ranch. When he retired in 1977, he was Colonel Martin Nusynowitz.

He joined the faculty of UT Health Science Center San Antonio as a tenured full professor and later transferred to UTMB, where he led the Division of Nuclear Medicine. He lost his beloved wife Harriet in 1986—but was fortunate to find love again with Susan Sheffield. Martin and Susan shared many interests—travelling, dancing and opera among them. Martin loved her children and Susan loved his. In 2008, at the age of 75, Daddy retired. He and Susan then traveled with abandon.

Martin was preceded in death by his beloved wife Harriet, his son Murray, his loving parents Morris and Esther Nusynowitz, his brother and sister-in-law, and Irving and Judy Nusynowitz. He is survived by his adoring wife Susan; his children Russell Nusynowitz and his partner Rose MacDougall, and Leah and Jon Gross; and daughter-in-law Sheri Schour and son-in-law Bruce Schour. He is also survived by grandchildren Jordyn, Jake, and Paige Nusynowitz; Elizabeth and Benjamin Cohen, and Benjamin “Bubba” Gross; and Jeffrey Schour. His loving stepchildren Kelly and Hamil Cupero, Emily and Patrick Barrow, and Christina and Tom Knight and his step grandchildren, Michael and Samantha, Andrew, Haley, Amanda, Thomas, and Nicholas survive him as well.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

The funeral was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Ln. Houston, TX 77055.

Cemetery Details

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055

Previous Events

Cemetery Chapel Service

MAR 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery
7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055