



They Gave in Death  
*for* **Those in Life**

**BODY DONATION  
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**THE CLASS of 2025**

The Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology



**Northeast Ohio**  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

DONORS



**Sarah Jane Achtermann**

December 16, 1931-  
August 9, 2021



**Tommy Paris Adkins**

October 19, 1942-  
May 29, 2020



**Raymond Eugene  
Aeschliman**

January 13, 1930-  
August 20, 2021



**Marvin B. Arrowood Jr.**

April 1, 1947-  
October 9, 2020



**Monty C. Auxter**

December 8, 1965-  
August 18, 2021



**Betty Jane Ball**

December 2, 1942-  
October 4, 2021



**Terry Lee Beal**

February 9, 1941-  
June 22, 2020



**Val Gene Bednarz**

September 15, 1930-  
December 7, 2020



**M. Gretchen Bell**

March 20, 1953-  
January 7, 2020



**Cecelia Agnes Benjamin**

May 25, 1928-  
September 14, 2020



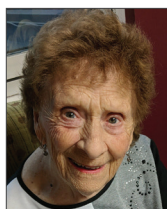
**James David Berezne**

March 20, 1956-  
April 21, 2021



**Mary Rose Bielobockie**

February 15, 1931-  
November 16, 2020



**Virginia Ruth Brandt**

March 18, 1923-  
April 10, 2020



**Phyliss J. Breeds**

June 30, 1934-  
October 20, 2020



**Evelyn V. Burgess**

May 30, 1918-  
February 10, 2020



**Charles Everett Call**

July 5, 1921-  
August 17, 2020



**Edgar Lee Callihan**

May 12, 1953-  
May 3, 2020



**Charlene Kay Campbell**

November 6, 1951-  
October 25, 2020



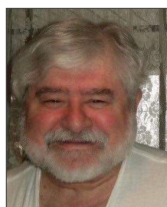
**Dorothy Elizabeth Carter**

June 13, 1925-  
July 15, 2020



**Carolyn Marie Carter**

February 6, 1941-  
August 4, 2021



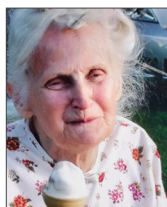
**Van Camp Cooper Chiles**

July 28, 1937-  
December 19, 2019



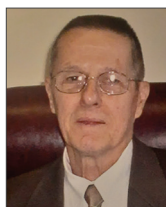
**Anthony Philip Cotturo**

October 12, 1937-  
June 17, 2021



**Barbara Lou Dafo**

June 19, 1929-  
August 24, 2021



**John Philip Delagrange**

June 16, 1933-  
September 26, 2020



# DONORS

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**Lucille Dickerson**  
September 1, 1930-  
May 9, 2021



**Rose Marie Dunlap**  
August 8, 1941-  
September 22, 2020



**Etta Lois Ezell**  
October 3, 1929-  
February 6, 2020



**James Albert France**  
February 1, 1942-  
May 15, 2021



**Joyce A. Frey**  
December 26, 1954-  
September 10, 2020



**Willis Casper Gaffey**  
September 22, 1934-  
March 5, 2020



**Charles Joseph Galipo**  
October 15, 1924-  
January 16, 2021



**Pauline Gemind**  
October 20, 1939-  
February 9, 2021



**Stephen Thomas Griebing**  
December 10, 1932-  
March 20, 1920



**Mary F. Hartz**  
August 15, 1938-  
July 24, 2020



**Marie Kirk Hawkins**  
August 15, 1926-  
January 1, 2021



**Trina L. Hayes**  
October 25, 1979-  
March 30, 2021





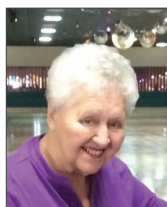
**Julia M. Hoover**

October 15, 1922-  
January 8, 2021



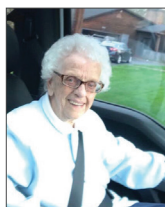
**Florence Caroline Hoskin**

July 3, 1930-  
September 15, 2020



**Mary Louise Husk**

November 12, 1937-  
May 2, 2021



**Mildred Corrine Justice**

November 18, 1929-  
July 29, 2020



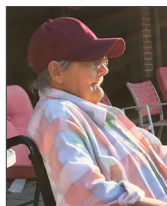
**MaryAnn Elizabeth Koontz**

July 17, 1936-  
March 11, 2020



**Anna Marie Kurtz**

June 3, 1930-  
June 9, 2020



**Patricia Lou Lamb**

November 3, 1941-  
May 31, 2020



**Robert James Leask**

July 10, 1947-  
August 11, 2021



**Patricia Joyce Leghart**

September 15, 1938-  
February 18, 2021



**Victor Louis Lent**

June 6, 1960-  
August 26, 2020



**Larry James Lizer**

January 9, 1945-  
January 24, 2020



**Doris J. Lockshaw**

April 6, 1931-  
September 30, 2020

DONORS



**Thora Ethelyn Long**

July 18, 1920-  
February 19, 2020



**James William Lunsford**

July 12, 1951-  
September 13, 2020



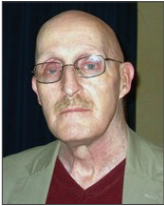
**Edward Lindsay Mathews**

August 5, 1941-  
February 15, 2020



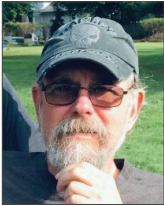
**Harold Edwin May Jr.**

October 14, 1928-  
August 28, 2021



**Timothy McKlusky**

July 13, 1951-  
July 13, 2020



**James Patrick Millerleile**

January 28, 1957-  
September 8, 2020



**Kenneth Gene Noland**

August 31, 1931-  
May 16, 2021



**Kathleen Myrth Obrecht**

September 23, 1925-  
January 11, 2020



**Jon Robert Page**

July 23, 1940-  
March 29, 2020



**Eleanor L. Parshell**

July 30, 1924-  
February 21, 2020



**Gerald Lee Patterson**

January 29, 1942-  
July 25, 2021



**Edith Doliber Pinsoneault**

August 17, 1933-  
July 7, 2021



**Michael P. Rodgers**

May 14, 1949-  
December 16, 2020



**James Rodgers**

April 9, 1952-  
February 25, 2021



**Leila Suzanne Rogers**

June 22, 1936-  
February 5, 2020



**David Francis Ross Jr.**

September 21, 1971-  
February 15, 2020



**Delphia Larch Rutherford**

December 25, 1939-  
February 9, 2020



**Tammy Margaret Ryen**

July 11, 1969-  
April 18, 2021



**George Harold Schilling**

August 9, 1922-  
March 4, 2021



**Anna Belle Schmucker**

September 25, 1931-  
February 21, 2021



**Gloria Sue Schwertfeger**

September 14, 1941-  
October 31, 2020



**Linda Jo Scott**

December 3, 1939-  
November 20, 2020



**Janet Mae Siegenthaler**

November 17, 1943-  
February 3, 2021



**Doris Gibson Simonis**

September 2, 1930-  
August 27, 2020

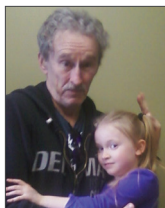
## DONORS

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**Harinder Kaur Singh**

May 1, 1953-  
March 1, 2020



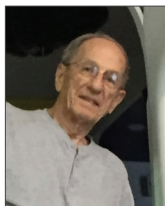
**Dave James Skyrme Jr.**

February 29, 1948-  
September 15, 2020



**Dorothy Agnes Slagle**

December 8, 1926-  
July 29, 2021



**Walter Edwin Strawman**

February 16, 1932-  
July 30, 2021



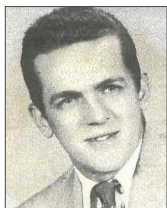
**Dora L. Van Pelt**

April 17, 1945-  
July 15, 2021



**Walter G. Vandall Sr.**

January 31, 1951-  
September 15, 2020



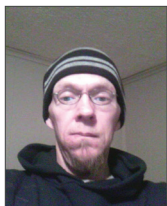
**Charles Ray Van Sickle**

October 11, 1936-  
August 8, 2020



**Violet Ruth Vereshak**

December 19, 1931-  
December 15, 2020



**Micheal Wainscott**

November 23, 1970-  
May 1, 2020



**Loreta Coe Walker**

July 4, 1927-  
December 25, 2020



**Wynona Ruth Wible**

October 11, 1928-  
April 23, 2020



**Thomas B. Willoughby**

August 29, 1933-  
June 27, 2020





**Larry Kent Yeager**

April 13, 1936-

August 20, 2021



*Artwork is by Jabrina Simmons*

# BODY DONATION MEMORIAL SERVICE

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## Prelude

Ethan Vo, pianist

## Welcome

Jesse Young, Ph.D.

*Professor Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology*

## You Raise me Up

*Composers: Brendan Graham (lyrics) and Rolf Lovland (music)*

*Performers: Nic Wagner (vocal) and Gilbert Hernandez (piano)*

*Families/ friends of donors: when your loved one's name is read, please stand as a medical student lights a candle in their memory.*

## Reading of Names

Achtermann-Cotturo

Mohammad Butt, Daniela Zapata, Elham Aldosari

Lydia Chlpka, pianist

Lauren Grdina and Matthew Thomas, candle lighters

## Memorial Reading

### ***Call me by my True Names by Thích Nhất Hạnh read by Sarah Vélez***

*Call me by my true name, because I have not departed.*

*I am here now, and I am still arriving.*

*Look deeply- every second I arrive;*

*I am a tiny bird, with still fragile wings, learning to sing in my new nest.*

*I am a caterpillar, in the heart of a flower;*

*I am a gem hiding inside a dark stone.*

*I am still arriving, to laugh and cry, to fear and hope.*

*I am a mayfly that metamorphosizes on the river's surface,*

*And I am the bird that swoops to swallow the mayfly.*

*The rhythm of my heart is the birth and the death of all that is alive.*

*My joy is like spring, it warms flowers all over the earth.*

*My pain is a river of tears, so vast it crosses the oceans.*

*Call me by my true name, please,*

*So I can hear all my cries and laughter at once,*

*So I can see that my joy and pain are one.*

*Please call me by my true names,*

*So I can wake up*

*And the door of my heart could be left open,*

*The door of compassion.*

## MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

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*Families/friends of donors: when your loved one's name is read, please stand as a medical student lights a candle in their memory.*

### Reading of Names

Dafo-Lamb

Clare Rigney, Brittany Ring, Kree Kerkvliet

Ethan Vo, pianist

Hassan Abdalla and Daniel Nnyombi, candle lighters

### Goin' Home

*Composer: William Arms Fisher (lyrics), Antonin Dvorak (music)*

*Performers: Nic Wagner, vocal solo and Ethan Vo (piano)*

*Families/ friends of donors: when your loved one 's name is read, please stand as a medical student lights a candle in their memory.*

### Reading of Names

Leask-Ross

Krista Hammaker, Aditi Deshmukh, Gilbert Hernandez

Lydia Chlpka, pianist

Lauren Grdina and Matthew Thomas, candle lighters

### Memorial Reading

#### ***Gratitude by Krista Hammaker***

*Many many moons ago*

*You and your loved one gave us a gift.*

*We gather here to grieve with you*

*As you've probably felt adrift.*

*We want you to know, we learned with respect.*

*Your gift was heavy and dignified.*

*We pray for your closure and your big big hearts.*

*Your loved ones forever our guides.*

*Your gift will keep giving through time and space,*

*With a broad, deep, and untold ripple effect.*

*So many lives will be impacted,*

*As future patients and doctors intersect*

*Your loved ones were our greatest teachers.*

*They were the ones who helped us see inside.*

*And you, your sacrifice we cannot measure.*

*But we're humbly and gratefully at your side.*

# BODY DONATION MEMORIAL SERVICE

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*Families/friends of donors: when your loved one's name is read, please stand as a medical student lights a candle in their memory.*

## Reading of Names

Rutherford-Yeager

Harlequin Hefelfinger, Meaghan Delahunty, Julie Nazaire

Ethan Vo, pianist

Hassan Abdalla and Daniel Nnyombi, candle lighters

## Flag Folding Presentation

Garret B. Silsbe

Petty Officer First Class (EXW), USN

Medical Officer Programs Representative

Navy Officer

Healthcare Recruiter at US Navy

Corey Reynolds

HM1, U.S. Navy

Navy Medicine Talent Scout

Navy Officer Recruiting Station - Cleveland

*Family members of Veterans please stand when donors name is called.*

## Reader

Justine Busby

## U.S. Veterans



Raymond Eugene Aeschliman

Marvin B. Arrowood Jr.

Val Gene Bednarz

Edgar Lee Callihan

Anthony Philip Cotturo

John Philip Delagrange

Charles Joseph Galipo

Victor Louis Lent

Larry James Lizer

Edward Lindsay Mathews

Harold Edwin May Jr.

Timothy McKlusky

James Patrick Millerleile

Kenneth Gene Noland

George Harold Schilling

Dave James Skyrn Jr.

Walter Edwin Strawman

## Color Guard

Ravenna VFW Post #1055



**Gun Salute**

**Taps**

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Amazing Grace**

*Composer, John Newton*

Nic Wagner, Vi-Trnh Luu, Krista Hammaker,  
Jovana Hanna  
Lydia Chlpka, piano

*Guests: We invite you to stand and join the choir on the last verse of Amazing Grace*

**AMAZING GRACE**

John Newton, 1725-1807

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me...  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now, I see.*

*T'was Grace that taught...  
my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear...  
the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares...  
we have already come.  
T'is Grace hath brought me safe thus far...  
and Grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been here ten thousand years...  
bright shining as the sun.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise...  
then when we've first begun.*

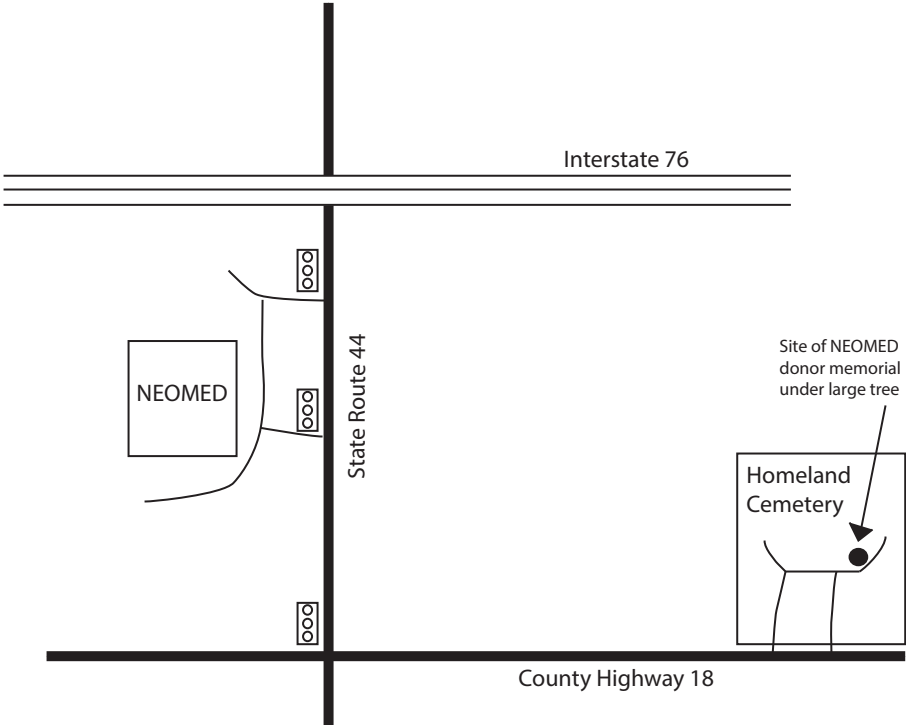
**Closing Comments**

Hans Thewissen, Ph.D.,  
Ingalls-Brown Professor of Anatomy  
Interim Chair and Faculty of Anatomy and Neurobiology

**Closing Recessional**

Lydia Chlpka, pianist

MAP TO CEMETERY • HOMELAND CEMETERY



*“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether be a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success.”*

**– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*My Final Gift*

It is now time for me to move on  
Into the dusk, but also the dawn.  
I will remain as the morning comes  
As I've left behind a gift for someone.  
So another may walk, may talk, may see,  
Where their life was locked,  
I offered a key.  
I am a donor to someone in need.  
My final gift, my final deed.

*- Author Unknown*

## 2022 FACULTY PROGRAM STATEMENTS

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I am a professor of anatomy at NEOMED, and I attend the Memorial Service for our donors every year. This event is meaningful for the relatives, the students, and the faculty. It is a place where the NEOMED community can thank the families for their gift and explain how it furthers medical education. Family members and friends of the deceased are able to meet the doctors-in-training whose early education has been shaped by the experience, and we hope that this comforts them in their grief. Students benefit by understanding the deep personal nature of the gift of your loved one, and the complexity of feelings that donors and their families might have about body donation. Please rest assured that all faculty and students appreciate the gift of the people who donated their bodies and that the experience of learning will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

– J. G. M. 'Hans' Thewissen, *Ingalls-Brown Professor of Anatomy, Anatomy and Neurobiology*

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Medicine is a unique profession, requiring students to not only learn a huge amount of scientific knowledge, but – just as importantly – learn to be humane caregivers, healers of the body, mind, and the soul. Over the decade that I've been teaching at NEOMED, this is what I've come to view as the greatest gift from your loved ones. With their very first course in medical school, our students immediately experience the intimate relationship between science and humanity that defines medicine. I thank all of you for your generosity and devotion to helping our students become doctors.

– Jesse Young, *Associate Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology*

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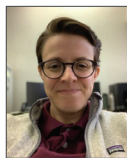
I can still remember the first time I really saw the right hand of the donor many years ago as a student. I stopped. This was a woman with beautiful hands. She had graceful nails with coral colored polish. Her hand was gently curled because the muscles that close the fingers are stronger than those that straighten them out. But it seemed as if she was reaching to pick up a hairbrush. I held her hand, and she held mine. This hand had held other hands. These fingers had written shopping lists, and dried children's tears. I straightened her hand, but it felt as if she was squeezing my hand. She was giving me permission to learn from her and have this one last anatomy lesson.

– Rebecca German, *Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology*



## 2022 FACULTY PROGRAM STATEMENTS

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Your loved ones are the first patients our students encounter in a career of practicing medicine. As such, it is a unique and meaningful experience for our students and one they will remember for years to come. As an instructor in the anatomy course, it is a privilege to observe the students realize and appreciate the intersection of medicine and humanity — an understanding that would not be possible without your loved ones. I am incredibly grateful for your generous gift. Thank you.

— *Erin Franks, Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology*

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The gift of your loved one's donation to educate and train our first-year medical student class is truly appreciated. Such altruism and dedication to our students' education contributes to the future health of our community in so many ways. Besides learning about science and medicine, they learn about the human condition, of teamwork, and of themselves in their professional journey to become physicians. With many thanks from one educator to another - your loved one was their first teacher.

— *Julie Aultman, Vice Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Professor, Family and Community Medicine*

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Thank you so much to our donors, their families, and their friends for entrusting us with such a deeply personal gift. I am incredibly privileged to be able to teach future physicians, and I want to let you know that your overwhelming generosity is an important contribution to the education of our students. We sincerely appreciate your loved one's donation.

— *Catherine Mattinson, Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology*

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As a teacher of anatomy, I lack the words that fully captures the enormity of the gift that the donors and their families have given the students. I wish to express a heartfelt thank you for your generous gift of education to the future health care professionals. God Bless.

— *Daniel Coovert Associate Professor Anatomy and Neurobiology*

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the lives of such giving individuals. This decision took an enormous amount of strength from your loved one and support from you. Please know that this is not an experience I will take lightly, but one that will stick with me for a lifetime. Learning from your family member will shape me into not only being a better physician, but a better person. Even though I was not fortunate enough to know their exact story, I was able to gather insight on their wisdom through some of the hardships they have endured. Because of your loved one, I hold myself to a higher standard of care.

– *Brittany Ring, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

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I want to express my appreciation for the generous donation of your family members, which will allow me to become a great medical professional. Their gift of donation has made a profound difference in my life and education. I will keep their generosity close to me as I continue my career. Thank you and I deeply appreciate this invaluable experience your family members have given to me and my classmates.

– *Adam Eleyan, Student, Master of Medical Science in Anesthesia, Class of 2024*

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I want to begin with saying thank you for the generous donation of your loved one. With this donation as a student, I was able to learn immensely about the anatomy of the human body. This has prepared me to provide the best care to my patients when I am out in my current clinical rotations. I know that the knowledge I have acquired will continue to be a major part of my profession as I continue to interact with patients for years to come. Losing a loved one is not easy! Donating them for my educational studies is one of the most selfless acts I've experienced. Thank you will never be enough for what you have done.

- Forever grateful

– *Julie Nazaire, College of Graduate Studies Student*

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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Paulo Coelho, author of *The Alchemist*, once wrote: “No matter what he does, every person on earth plays a central role in the history of the world. And normally he doesn’t know it.”

I believe it truly takes an amazing soul to become a donor so that others can learn, grow, and benefit beyond what words can describe. This privilege does not come to most, so I feel honored to have had a teacher unlike any other, one that truly showed me what science and the profession that I’ve chosen mean in the grand scheme of things. I wish to convey how central of a role my donor has played in my education and growth as a person and a professional. I will forever cherish this opportunity, thank you.

– *Enkhjin Enkhsaikhan, College of Graduate Studies Student*

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I wish to express my most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the gift your family members made to my personal experience and medical education. Words cannot express the various ways your family members have touched my life. Not only have they been inspiring teachers for me, but they have been family to me as well. A significant privilege has been given to us by these individuals, and I am grateful and humbled by their decision to further my medical education. Your family members have assisted me in nourishing my dreams, and I aspire to never let them down. I know that anything I do will be because they allowed me to discover the beauty and magnificence of the complex human body. Thank you to all the donors and their families for their generous donations to shape me into becoming the most prepared and knowledgeable healthcare provider. They will forever hold a special place in my heart and medical education.

– *Prabhleen Multani, Student, Master of Medical Science in Anesthesia, Class of 2024*

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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You likely cooked, cried, cackled, fought, and made up with your loved one. It is a complex, rich, and powerful bond. How could it not be? They are your wife, husband, partner, sister, brother, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, colleague or friend. As we gather here to mourn and process their transition, we also gather to celebrate the power and energy of their love. The bonds your loved one created are not lost; in fact, they are even stronger. Though it may feel painful and impossible to imagine, their love and essence are now truly free. Their love shapes healing hands, guiding and informing the care each one of us medical students will provide future patients. Even today, they teach us kindness, compassion, and integrity. As their love and essence continues to fold itself into your life, you may begin to notice your loved one in unexpected moments and interactions. As this occurs, you perhaps begin to see who they are, is not so different or separate, from yourself. You feel them in your cooking, in your steps to and from home or work. You feel them as you plant roses, or greet the sunset. And most especially, you feel them in your smile, as you gaze upon something or someone they deeply love.

– Sarah Véléz, *College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

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My sincere condolences to you and yours. The loss of a loved one is among the most trying life experiences, and it is nearly impossible to imagine its impact on you.

I am grateful for my donor experience. It expanded my understanding of medicine and my confidence as a physician – consequently broadening the scope of my career trajectory and hopefully its positive impact on the lives of those I treat.

On behalf of myself and my peers, please accept our thanks and sympathies.

– Sean Norris, *College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

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Thank you to all of our donors and their families for their generous gift. Your loved ones provided an immeasurable experience for our class. Your loved ones provided us with a learning experience that set our foundation as future physicians. I will forever be grateful for the impact your loved ones had on my medical journey. Thank you!

– Sarah Claxton, *College of Graduate Studies Student*



## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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I am one to believe that we are all on a journey, and it is the memories and experiences that we make with people that last as our legacy. We never got to meet your loved ones in life, however, that does not mean they weren't able to teach us many things in their passing. The donations that your loved ones and you have provided will last more than a lifetime, touching and helping more people through this charitable act that will surpass any other. I believe every patient we will treat in our careers as medical professionals will have the essence of your loved one. Thank you for allowing us to learn from a loved one, to show us the final act of charity of their lives, and to provide us with an experience that will last a lifetime. I assure you that your loved one will live on in all our memories and will be appreciated and missed by many.

*— Jacob Douglas, College of Graduate Studies Student*

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Gratitude by Krista Hammaker

Many many moons ago  
You and your loved one gave us a gift.  
We gather here to grieve with you  
As you've probably felt adrift.

We want you to know, we learned with respect.  
Your gift was heavy and dignified.  
We pray for your closure and your big big hearts.  
Your loved ones forever our guides.

Your gift will keep giving through time and space,  
With a broad, deep, and untold ripple effect.  
So many lives will be impacted,  
As future patients and doctors intersect

Your loved ones were our greatest teachers.  
They were the ones who helped us see inside.  
And you, your sacrifice we cannot measure.  
But we're humbly and gratefully at your side.

*— Krista Hammaker, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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I would like to sincerely say thank you, to the families & people who have donated their bodies for the sake of medicine, education, & the greater good. My peers and I are very grateful for allowing us to have the ability to study hard and further our knowledge in medicine, so we can better the lives of other people and take care of our future generations.

– *Khaled Mitwally, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

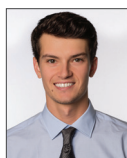
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I'm not sure what to say other than thank you, but thank you is not enough. So, I will make you a promise. I promise that your loved one's sacrifice will not be in vain. We will take the lessons they taught us and apply them to countless others who we will care for. Your loved one's sacrifice has tipped the odds in favor of a successful recovery for countless others.

– *Chris Mamone, College of Graduate Studies Student*

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To those reading, First off, I would like to say thank you for your most generous donation to the education of myself and my peers. As a medical student who aspires to apply to a surgical residency, your loved ones were the first patients where I was allowed to truly explore my professional interests. From the basics of understanding their anatomy to the more complex aspects of knowing how I would even feel in the situation; it was an enlightening and incredibly humbling experience. These individuals will always have a place in my heart and soul as a future physician and I have them, as well as all of you, to thank for that. So, thank you, and may you know that they all rest in peace.

– *Daniel Walsh Nascimento, College of Graduate Studies Student*

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"I would like to start off by expressing my condolences for your loss. One of the most inspiring aspects of life is the beauty of the memories you create within the hearts of your loved ones. Your presence here today is itself a reflection of the love and memories you carry forth of your loved one. Through this graceful donation, my peers and I have had the grand privilege of furthering our understanding of the human body. Ultimately, I hope to utilize this knowledge to impact the lives of future generations. Thank you for being here today, and may God bless the souls of all the faithful departed."

– *Ricardo Velez-Hernandez, College of Graduate Studies Student*

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE STUDENT – TESTIMONIAL

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Dear Family,

I am writing to thank you sincerely for the generosity of the gift that you provided to me as a medical student and future physician. Your selfless act provided me and my fellow students with a distinctive opportunity to develop skills that we will soon be able to devote to the welfare of our patients. Though silent, your loved ones spoke volumes and have taught me and my peers so much. They have played a large and meaningful part in helping us to become the physicians we will be, and their legacies will live on through our careers as caregivers. My donor was my first teacher as a novice medical student, and one whose influence will remain with me through my training and beyond.

Sometimes no words are sufficient to do justice to the selfless kindness of others, and this is truly such an occasion. Your gift cannot be reciprocated except to express my deep gratitude. You should take solace knowing that your loved ones will impact the lives of so many others in significant ways and that countless future patients will owe their health and wellbeing to their generosity. Our donors taught us to celebrate life and to never forget the need for humanity and compassion in medicine, a lesson that could never be conveyed by reading a textbook. I know I speak for all of my classmates in saying we are so very appreciative and grateful.

– *Marlene Konner, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2025*

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Though I never met them, nor did I know of their temperament, likes, dislikes, hopes, and ambition, I would like to think that they were a great person with many friends and loved ones. Their sacrifice and generosity for my enrichment and dozens of other students cannot be repaid in mere words. Their body allowed me to grasp the human body's anatomy in a way that books and diagrams could not do justice. I believe that we humans can live on forever in the memories of our loved ones and those the people we meet and impact even through indirect means.

– *Kennedy Nkachukwu, College of Graduate Studies Student*

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To my donor and their family,

Thank you for such a self-sacrificing act of generosity. Today you will hear many thank you's and words of comforts. However, I also want to acknowledge the grief you must have experienced from losing your loved one and the heartache from being separated from them. Today, you get to reunite with them and celebrate their life. Fortunately, we get to join you and remember them as an altruistic being, in life and after. Thank you and may their soul lay to rest.

– *Sonam Patel, College of Graduate Studies Student*



*Artwork is by Jabrina Simmons*