



Peter Kotcher

November 29, 1946 - December 26, 2024

Peter Kotcher was born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1946 the second son of Emil Kotcher and Jeanne Giles Kotcher. When Peter was about 5 the family moved to Vietnam where Emil, a microbiologist, worked to establish blood banks for the U.S. government. Peter found the trip to be wonderfully interesting and exciting; this trip engendered a life long love , of travel. Vietnam was still under French domination and Peter attended a French language school, The Ecole de Gaul. He quickly learned to speak French and advanced rapidly academically. He found the Vietnamese people to be kind, friendly, and protective of his safety. Upon return to the U.S. Emil Kotcher took an academic position at the University of Louisville and the family lived in Charlestown, Indiana. After attending elementary school and high school in Charlestown, Peter began to commute with his father to a high school in Louisville. He had found a copy of some of the writings of Sigmund Freud in his father's library and having read them, found them fascinating and decided he wanted to be a psychoanalyst. His trip to Louisville required him to arrive before the beginning of his classroom time and he spent the early hours in the medical school library reading what he could find about psychoanalysis. After graduating from Waggener High School, he entered Rice University from which he graduated as a chemistry major. He then entered the doctoral program in Chemistry at Johns Hopkins (his father's alma mater) where he earned an M.A. in Chemistry. At this point he had to deal with the Selective Service process. By temperament and ethical conviction, he felt he could not

serve in a combat role in the military. Because he had lived in Vietnam as a child, he loved the country and the people and knew he could not serve there. He investigated the process by which he could qualify for Conscientious Objector status and successfully presented his case to his then local draft board. He was able to perform alternative service as a psychological technician at the Shepherd-Pratt psychiatric hospital in Maryland. This allowed him to explore further his interest in psychoanalysis and gave him invaluable experience working with severely mentally ill individuals. With a view toward pursuing psychoanalytic training, he obtained an MD degree from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport, Louisiana and completed his psychiatry residency at the former Cincinnati General Hospital in 1979 where he also served as Chief Resident. He then entered psychoanalytic training at the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute from which he graduated. He worked at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center retiring after serving for over a decade as Chief of the Mental Health Care Line. Peter felt a deep and complex compassion for the veterans of the Vietnam War. He saw how their lives had been wrecked by being dragged into that terrible pointless war and who were then vilified by some anti-war protesters upon their return home. Most recently he had served as Director of the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute which allowed him to advance and foster the power of psychoanalysis which he had discovered so early in his life. He is survived by his sons Ivan, Ben(Mia), and John (Karin Jue). his granddaughter Akiko Jade Kotcher, his sister Betty Kotcher and his wife Dr. Marlene Kocan. Friends may call on Sunday January 5, 2025, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High St in Worthington Ohio. Burial will take place at a later date in New York City. If they wish, friends may contribute to Doctors Without Borders in his memory; <https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home
515 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

CC

“ I am Michael Moore's younger sister, Connie, so Peter lived with me, also, and my family for a while. I think I liked him better than any of Michael's friends because he was gentle and kind. He never made fun of me or thought of me as the pesky little sister. He often seemed quietly amused. Therefore, it was a real pleasure to meet him again as an adult. He seemed to me to be the same Peter. I can't take in that he's gone. I thought of him as family, as an older brother. He made me realize, when I was young, that boys could be nice. That was a gift. I feel an ache knowing I won't see him again. He was just good. I will miss him. Connie Moore Campana

Constance Moore Campana - January 15, 2025 at 02:50 AM

LI

“ Lee I. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Peter Kotcher.



Lee I. - January 04, 2025 at 01:50 PM

LI

“ Lee I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter Kotcher.

Lee I. - January 04, 2025 at 01:50 PM

MK

“ Peter was a wonderful supportive mentor from the time I began training in psychiatry. And he impacted so many students and residents over the years. He was a fountain of knowledge on so many subjects. Most importantly, he was a dear friend and my ski partner the past twenty years, bravely learning to master the mountains later in life. We were able to travel and see so much of the west from British Columbia to New Mexico. Just great trips and Peter just months ago wanting to plan a trip for this spring. He was unstoppable. And was enthusiastic foodie, and we shared monthly dinners with a gang of us over the past few decades. Always the thoughtful wise conversationalist. So many great memories. Missing him. And all the best to Marlene, his boys, family, and friends. A remarkable life well lived. -Michael Keys

Michael Keys - January 04, 2025 at 07:55 AM

WT

“ Will miss him dearly. Amy&Thor Tangvald purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Peter Kotcher.



Will miss him dearly. Amy&Thor Tangvald - January 03, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Peter Kotcher.

January 02, 2025 at 02:08 PM

DR

“Debbie Reichler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Peter Kotcher.



Debbie Reichler - January 02, 2025 at 12:02 PM



“Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Peter Kotcher.



January 02, 2025 at 10:22 AM

MM

“Death is the last great adventure.” –J. M. Barrie

Peter and I lived together during our senior year of High School in Louisville, Kentucky. It was a hoot. Then Peter decamped for Rice and I to UVa. Thirty years later we reconnected and have been in sporadic contact since.

Peter was always the smartest guy in the room, something that I aspired to. He had an uncanny way of restraining my beagle-like pursuits with logic and consideration. I loved him for that.

I am sorry that Peter is having the last great adventure first. I will miss him.

Michael Moore

Michael Moore - January 01, 2025 at 02:08 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Moore - January 01, 2025 at 02:07 PM

CC

There he is!

Constance Moore Campana - January 15, 2025 at 03:02 AM

FT

“ I will keep Dr. Peter Kotcher and his family in my prayers here at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center-Chaplain Services.

Chaplain Father Rey Taylor



Father Rey Taylor - January 01, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Peter Kotcher.



January 01, 2025 at 07:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Peter Kotcher.

January 01, 2025 at 07:50 AM

JC

“ Peter - you were kind, thoughtful, and helpful to many people, on so many occasions - over many years... may you rest well, my friend. Blessings to all family and friends.



Joseph Cognetti - December 31, 2024 at 08:16 AM

SL

Dr. Kotcher, thanks for being a great Chief of Mental Health Care line during the time i was assigned there in a couple different offices. My condolences to your family and friends.

Shirley Lankert - December 31, 2024 at 09:05 PM

JM

Peter and I were together at the VA for many years and I valued his ability to listen in the midst of administrative pressures, a wonderful skill. Peter was committed to our mission at the VA and I honor that by these flowers. He kept the VA in place to be an honorable tribute to the veterans. Many thanks.

Jeff Goldsmith MD - January 01, 2025 at 07:41 AM

HH

Deepest sympathy to Marlene and all Peter's family. We sure will miss seeing Peter at our Waggener reunions. He was so kind, smart & fun.
Heather Scarlett Hurley

Heather Hurley - January 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM