



Peter J, Utrata

January 11, 1942 - January 17, 2023

Peter J. Utrata (81) passed away in his sleep on January 17, 2023. Peter was born to Joseph and Mary Utrata in Trnava, Slovakia on January 11, 1942. His family fled the invading Soviet army in early 1945 and sought refuge in Austria, from where the family was finally able to emigrate to the United States in 1949, when Peter was seven.

Peter was predeceased by his parents; son, Christopher Utrata; sister, Susie (Greg) Truckor and his sister in law, Mary Ann Utrata. He is survived by his wife, Rene' Utrata; daughter, Vallery (Mike) Tzagournis; daughter-in-law, Jenny Utrata and grandchildren: Claire Tzagournis, Chase Tzagournis, Marek Tzagournis, Santiago Utrata, Samantha Utrata and Nicolas Utrata. He is also survived by his older brother, Carl, and numerous cousins in Slovakia, Germany and Switzerland.

Peter was raised in Chillicothe, Ohio and graduated from Chillicothe High School. He attended The Ohio State University for his undergraduate education, medical school and his ophthalmological residency. Needless to say, he was a fervent Buckeye fan. Peter also had many interests throughout his life. He was active in sports, including high school football, water skiing, snow skiing, skydiving, sailing and golf .

For two years, Peter served as a U.S. Army major at Ft. Leonard Wood. He

then returned to Columbus where he spent the next 48 years serving the community as a highly-respected ophthalmologist. He was often referred to as the “gentleman of ophthalmology” owing to his kind treatment of his patients, staff and people in general. He became world-renowned as an eye surgeon because of his innovative invention, the capsulorhexis forceps, a surgical instrument known world-wide as the “Utratas,” which is used regularly in cataract surgery.

Peter was a gentle soul, as he treated everyone he met with an equal amount of kindness and respect. His family, patients, friends and neighbors loved and respected him.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202
(614) 267-5471

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Our condolences to the Utrata families. He was an amazing man who helped so many. May his innovations carry on many more years helping those in need. What an extraordinary man! Blessings to you all in healing and remembering all the fond memories. The Kent Family

Michelle Kent - February 15, 2023 at 07:03 PM

MM

“ Dear Carl and family
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear brother Peter. My dad always spoke so highly and fondly of him and your entire family. My sincere condolences to all of you. May he Rest In Peace.
With Love and sympathy
Mary Herrnstein McCombs
(Tom Herrnstein's oldest daughter)
mhm824@gmail.com
Columbus OH

Mary Herrnstein McCombs - February 09, 2023 at 10:12 AM

SF

“ What a great loss to our world as he will be missed by so many that he has helped throughout his career. As you go through this difficult time, we hope that you find peace and comfort. Sending love and prayers, The Fielding Family

Sue Fielding - January 30, 2023 at 04:37 PM

ST

“ Peter was a wonderful doctor. He relied on facts, which enabled him correctly to diagnose a rare eye disorder in our oldest son about 50 years ago. We then relied on him to care for our eyes until he retired from active practice. His patients always came first, so we weren't aware of his very interesting life outlined in his obituary. We were surprised and saddened by his death. Sheldon and Rebecca Taft

Sheldon Taft - January 30, 2023 at 11:37 AM

AW

“ We send our condolences to all of the Utrata family. Pete was our good neighbor for many years.

Alice Hale and Henry Wickham - January 30, 2023 at 08:29 AM

WT

“ I was greatly saddened to learn of Dr. Utrata's death so soon after his retirement. He operated on my one good eye in 1992 and restored my vision expertly. I'll be 95 this year. God bless him & his family. William Thompson

william thompson - January 29, 2023 at 02:53 PM

GS

“ Dr Utrata did both of my cataract surgeries. He was always very kind and friendly. He was simply the best.

greg sours - January 29, 2023 at 11:08 AM

RB

“ I had the privilege of having Dr. Utrata as my ophthalmologist for 30 years. He was always very caring and took whatever time was needed to explain, and I looked forward to seeing him. His kindness was on display without fail. The two cataract surgeries he performed for me were masterful, and I will be forever grateful for his skill as an eye surgeon. That said, it was his wonderful way of caring through giving the feeling that each patient was very important to him that overrides everything else. The world has lost a gem of a human being. Deepest condolences to his family on your loss.



Rick Brown

Rick Brown - January 29, 2023 at 09:59 AM