

A Great Man Has Passed

Ronald M. Davis, M.D., age 52, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family, on November 6, 2008 after a courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. Ron was the beloved husband of Nadine (nee Messina), the proud father of three sons, Jared, Evan and Connor, the loving son of the late Alice Komessar (Saul) and the late George Davis (Joyce), loving son-in-law of Mae and the late Frank Messina, dear brother to 9 siblings, Gary (Deborah) Davis, Brenda (Tom) Nyquist, Lynne (Doug Tanner) Davis, Dr. Joseph (Valerie) Golbus, Abby (Eric) Hirsh, CSM David Davis, Debra (Eugene) Magier, David (Marilyn) Komessar, and Julie (Robert) Godnik, caring brother-in-law to David (Brenda) Messina and Roseanne (Shaun) Smith, and uncle to many adoring nieces and nephews.

Ron's star shone very brightly, albeit too briefly in the medical community. He graduated medical school from the University of Chicago, where he also received a Master of Arts in Public Policy Studies. He completed a Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the U.S Center for Disease Control (CDC). Following his training, he served under Surgeon General C. Everett Koop as the Director of the Office on Smoking and Health at the CDC in Rockville, Maryland. Subsequently, he served as Chief Medical Officer for the Michigan Department of Public Health, until assuming his most recent position as Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan.

Ron was the founding editor of Tobacco Control, an international publication of the British Medical Journal, and North American Editor of the British Medical Journal from 1998 to 2001. A prolific author, Ron wrote or co-wrote hundreds of articles in peer-reviewed journals, as well as an equal number of editorials and contributions in the lay press. He served as an expert witness to Congress on public health issues, issuing nearly a dozen reports and providing frequent oral testimony. A gifted educator, Ron gave countless lectures and educational seminars, dedicating his career to the service of the public, his colleagues and the next generation of physicians.

After many years of dedicated service, Ron reached the pinnacle of American medicine, being elected as President of the American Medical Association in June of 2007. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal and the Surgeon General's Medallion, The American College of Preventive Medicine's Distinguished Service Award, and the American Thoracic Society's Distinguished Service Award.

While these prestigious awards and accomplishments are extraordinary, Ron's ultimate legacy will be the strength of his character – impeccable integrity, graciousness, the highest ethical standards, a beautiful smile, respectful manner, and an intense dedication to his family and friends whom he loved so much.

Funeral services will be held at:
10:30 A.M.

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Trinity Church

3355 Dunckel Rd.

Lansing, MI

Rabbi Michael Zimmerman and Pastor Royce Allen officiating

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ron's memory may be made to the following organizations:

The American Medical Association Foundation

Ronald M. Davis, M.D. Legacy Honor Fund

515 North State Street

Chicago, Illinois 60610

(312) 464-4200

The endowment fund in Dr. Davis' name will live in perpetuity, supporting the AMA Foundation's mission to advance health care through support of programs in medical education, research and public health.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)

2141 Rosecrans Avenue

Suite 7000

El Segundo, CA 90245

www.pancan.org