

Mark's Eulogy for Dad

June 21, 2006

First, I'd like to thank every one of you who is spending time with my family and me to remember and to honor my father. I truly appreciate the great distances that many of you have journeyed to be with us here today.

I'm going to be very brief. The friends, patients, colleagues and family who have talked with my brothers and me over the past several days have eulogized my father's life far better than I can today.

My father's example has always been an important guidepost for me – a standard of what a doctor, a professional, a gentleman, a friend, a husband and, most importantly, a father can and should be. It's hard to imagine life without his guidance, his wisdom and his example. Over the last few years, and in particular the last couple of months, he provided yet another example – what it means to be someone who bears illness and pain with strength, patience and dignity. A man who had dedicated his entire life to the treatment of disease and the care of patients had become the patient and, unfortunately, the available treatments were unlikely to succeed fully. So my family and I had the luxury of time with him – a gift which lasted longer than it seemed reasonable to hope for.

My father was intelligent, warm, kind, funny (in a dry way). He could be unyieldingly stubborn but was unfailingly generous. He was generous of spirit and generous with his time. He was always eager to share in my successes and those of my brothers and always there to listen when things did not work out.

The price of love is grief. And today we grieve for the loss of my father, whom I especially will miss dearly. All of us loved him so very much. Thank you.