Jeffrey Piehler (1947 - 2014)

Jeffrey M. Piehler, 67

Prairie Village, Kansas/Worcester - Jeffrey M. Piehler passed away on November 14, in his home surrounded by family and friends. Jeff was born on June 11, 1947, in New York City, the son of Edmund O. Piehler, M.D. and Martha C. Piehler. He grew up in Worcester, with his three siblings Edmund Jr. (Ned), Jennifer, and Lisa. He graduated from Phillips Academy, Williams College and Cornell University Medical College. His surgical career took him to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for general surgery training and the Mayo Clinic for training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. He became the head of residency training program in thoracic surgery at St. Luke's Hospital. In 2000, Jeff moved to KU Medical Center as a Clinical Professor of Surgery.

Jeff was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2002, and side effects of chemotherapy forced his retirement. His intellectual curiosity never failed him. He relearned French and was a passionate and knowledgeable collector of American antique furniture and art. Jeff pursued cooking with his usual perfectionism and his wine collection became epic in scope. His pursuit of photography was transformative, particularly a photography trip to Bhutan. Jeff came to appreciate that a life should not be measured by a quantitative list of accomplishments, but by the greater standard of what one has done for family, friends, and strangers.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Jean, his four children, Britton, Timothy, Benjamin, and Elizabeth, four grandchildren and friends too numerous to name. He left this world having touched so many people, first with his work as a surgeon, and later by embodying his beliefs that genuine human connection is paramount, and that beauty can be found everywhere.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Jeff may be made to the University of Kansas Cancer Center via the KU Endowment Association. A collection of Jeff's writings and photographs can be found at www.jeffreypiehler.com