

Robert Zeiders '61

View (</obituaries/2017-11-29/robert-zeiders.html>)Guestbook (</node/1580621/talk>)Weekly Ads (</circulars>)

SAVOY – Robert Scott Zeiders, M.D., 77, of Savoy passed away Friday (Nov. 24, 2017) at home surrounded by family.

Dr. Zeiders was born April 5, 1940 in Canton, Ohio, to Dr. Glenn Wilson and Teresa Scott Zeiders. He married Beth Rae Bandy on April 13, 1985, in Champaign. She survives.

Survivors also include his three children and their families: Bethany and Mitch Lieberman of Geneva and their three children, Andrew, Noah and Emma; David and Kathleen Zeiders of Savoy and their three sons, Josh Methven (Kara Hendershot) of St. Paul, Minn., Jeremiah Methven (Betsy Methven-Dorner) and their son, James, of Durham, N.C., and Jack; and Amy Zeiders of Henderson, Nev., and her twins, Taylor and Tyler.

He is also survived by a brother, Glenn (Mary) Zeiders of Palmetto, Fla.

Dr. Zeiders graduated from Williams College, received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and completed four years of internship/residency in internal medicine at Northwestern University. His two-year fellowship at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, Calif., prepared him for his lifetime career in rheumatology.

In the midst of his residency, Dr. Zeiders served two years on active duty in the Air Force as a Captain in the Medical Corps. He was Chief of Internal Medicine, Chief of Professional Services, and Acting Hospital Commander, 328th USAF Hospital, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. Zeiders joined Carle in 1973 and enjoyed a 30-year career as a rheumatologist and head of the department there. He also served as the chief of medicine for a period and after retirement spent four years as the editor of their medical journal, Carle Selected Papers. He once wrote, "The most rewarding aspect of my career was the life-long relationship with wonderful patients, most of whom had incurable chronic diseases. This experience and my faith showed me the importance of healing to be as or more important than curing."

Carle Foundation Hospital awarded him the "most outstanding contribution in medical education" award in 1986, followed by the Legacy Award in 2005 for providing exceptional care and compassion for patients, as well as playing a role in the growth and development of the institution for future patients and physicians.

Instructing others was also important to Dr. Zeiders, and he served as clinical assistant professor of medicine and head of the section of rheumatology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Class of 1987 presented him with the Golden Apple for excellence in teaching.

Dr. Zeiders' research and publications helped make methotrexate a mainstay of rheumatic disease treatment, while his lecturing in the United States and Europe focused on the safe use of short acting anti-inflammatory drugs.

Membership in professional societies included the Champaign County Medical Society, founding fellow of the American Rheumatism Association, and the American College of Rheumatology.

Dr. Zeiders enjoyed sharing time with his family and friends, spinning stories, genealogy, gardening, traveling, mentoring young adults, cooking and boating, among other things. After retirement, he would volunteer as an educator and ombudsman for bewildered or overwhelmed patients and their families. He was humble and very kind to everyone he met.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Morgan Memorial Home, 1304 Regency Drive West, Savoy. The Rev. Frank L. Hoss will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Champaign.

