



## Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D.

July 17, 2022

Allan Meredith Lansing passed away peacefully on July 17, 2022. He was born in 1929 in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, the only child of a telegraph operator and dispatcher for the Canadian National Railroad and of a teacher turned homemaker; the family eventually settled in London, Ontario where Dr. Lansing grew up. His parents had little money, and starting at a young age, he went to work. He received academic scholarships to go to the University of Western Ontario (now known as Western University) in a combined 6 year undergraduate and medical school program; during that time he joined the Delta Upsilon fraternity and earned extra money by teaching tennis and performing magic tricks at parties. He was at the top of his class all four years of medical school; upon graduation, he earned the highest award of the university, the Honorable G. Ferguson Trophy for Outstanding Performance in Scholarship, Athletics, and College Life. He was also selected for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Following graduation from medical school at age 23 in 1953, he did a rotating internship then the first year of his surgical residency at Western, and over the next two years earned a PhD in physiology there in 1957. He continued his surgical residency with another year at Western and a final year at the University of Illinois in Chicago; subsequently he did a surgical fellowship in the relatively new field of cardiovascular surgery after seeing someone resuscitated by open cardiac massage. For six months in 1960, he was chief fellow in cardiovascular surgery under Dr. Michael DeBakey at Baylor University in Houston, Texas, and in early 1961 did another 6 month fellowship in pediatric cardiovascular surgery under Dr. Robert Gross at Boston Children's Hospital in Massachusetts.

Following all of his training, in the summer of 1961 he became an assistant professor of surgery and of physiology at Western. In 1963 he accepted a position as an associate professor of surgery at the University of Louisville; there he became chief of cardiovascular surgery in 1967 and a full professor of surgery in 1969. In 1976 he retired from formal academic medicine and built a private practice of cardiovascular surgeons from the United States and from other countries, although he continued to be a clinical

professor in surgery at University of Louisville. He was a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a fellow of American College of Cardiology. During his career, he authored or co-authored at least 132 papers in medical journals and textbooks.

Memorable surgical achievements include performing with Dr. Lonnie Howerton the first kidney transplant in the state of Kentucky in 1964, performing the first coronary artery bypass in Kentucky, helping set up intensive care units at three hospitals in Louisville, facilitating and assisting in performing the second artificial heart implantation in the US in 1984, and being actively involved in transmyocardial revascularization (TMR) in the late 1990's. For much of his career, he was the cardiovascular surgeon of choice for Jehovah's Witnesses because he did not prime the heart-lung machine with blood, which years ago was unusual in cardiovascular surgery.

He was medical director of the Kentucky Rotary Gift of Life Program and of the Humana-USAID-Romanian Cardiovascular Program, operating on children with congenital heart disease in the United States and other countries and teaching physicians how to perform surgery on those children. For his volunteer work he received several presidential awards: The President's Medal from the Dominican Republic in 1987, the President's Point of Light award from the United States President George H.W. Bush in 1991, the Vasquez Nunez De Balboa Medal of Honor in Panama in 1992, the Medal Dr. Horndio Arias Madrid in Panama in 1993, and the Commander-Order of Merit in Romania in 2004.

Besides his MD and PhD degrees, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Bellarmine University in Louisville in 1985, a Doctor of Science degree from Transylvania University in Lexington in 1985 and a Doctor of Science degree from Western University in 2008.

He was very active in community and civic service. He continued to support The Boy Scouts of America by heading the fundraising efforts for a new Boy Scout camp in Jefferson County. In honor of his wife as well as of the nurses whom he felt were critical to his professional success, in 1982 he and his wife founded and endowed the Donna and Allan Lansing School of Nursing and Clinical Sciences at Bellarmine College, now Bellarmine University, which funded full scholarships to three nursing students per year, now increased to 12 per year in Nursing and Allied Health professions.

He also aided in the establishment of the Kentuckiana Chapter of Mended Hearts and was a member of many regional, national and international medical societies; and was on the board of directors of many regional heart and kidney associations. He helped form the

Humana Heart Institute International which was envisioned as a center for excellence for cardiovascular surgery, and he was Director of the Norton Audubon Heart Institute for many years. In 2001, the Open Heart Unit at Norton Audubon Hospital was named for him.

Because he believed so strongly in the value of a good education, he served on the boards of several universities including Morehead University, Kentucky State University, Transylvania University and Bellarmine University.

As he was winding down his practice of cardiovascular surgery, in 2003 he helped found and became medical director of the Cardiovascular Technician Program at Norton Healthcare. He also became involved in The Healing Place in Louisville which provides outreach and help to men and women who wish to recover from drug and alcohol addiction.

He was honored with scores of awards during his lifetime. Besides those listed above, in high school he became the equivalent of an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of Canada, and in undergraduate and medical school received multiple awards. In 1966, he became a Kentucky Colonel for being a pioneer in the state of Kentucky in the new field of cardiovascular surgery. In 1981 and in 1998 he received the Distinguished Citizen Award by the mayor of Louisville, and in 1994 received The Bell Award for Community Service in recognition of his public service in the Louisville area. In 2004, he was awarded the highest honor of Bellarmine University, Knight of Knights; Bellarmine also honored him and his wife by establishing the Lansing Commons, a room on the first floor of the library for a collaborative learning space along with rotating exhibits of Dr. Lansing's life and achievements. In 2009 he was presented with the esteemed Founder's Medal of the Delta Upsilon fraternity.

He will be remembered for a multitude of personal and academic achievements and for helping improve the lives of countless patients with his gifted hands which included many hours of comforting families during difficult times. He gave his heart to those who needed compassion, along with a hand to hold and an ear to listen. He lived his life with grace, compassion, selflessness and love. Dr. Joseph McGowan, former president of Bellarmine, asked what Dr. Lansing wanted to be remembered for, and was told he wanted to be remembered for "being a very good surgeon and a very caring person".

He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 70 years Donna, and is survived by his three children: Ann Meredith Lansing, MD (Peter), Peter Scott Lansing, MD (Amy), and Michele Lansing Flowers, RN (Kelly). He also is survived by 7 grandchildren and 13 great-

grandchildren.

The family would like to thank all the loving caregivers who were with Donna and Allan for the past 6 years, most notably Terra, Heather, Kelly, Liberte, Rica, Scotty, Toya, Tya, Vicky, Teresa, Hosparus Health and many others who were a part of their stellar care. They loved and cared for both Donna and Allan as if they were family.

Contributions in his name can be made to The Lansing Legacy Fund at Bellarmine University, The Allan and Donna Lansing Ontario Graduate Scholarships in Medicine at Western University in Ontario [www.westernconnect.ca/lansing](http://www.westernconnect.ca/lansing), The Healing Place in Louisville, The Boy Scouts of America, and Hosparus Health Louisville.

Visitation at Pearson's 149 Breckenridge Lane will be held on Thursday July 21, 2022, from 2 to 7 p.m.

His memorial service will be held 1 p.m. Friday, August 5, in Our Lady of the Woods Chapel of Bellarmine University.

Arrangements under the direction of Pearson's, "Where Louisville Goes To Remember".

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **21**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pearson Funeral Home  
149 Breckenridge Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207

## Memorial Service

AUG **5**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of the Woods Chapel (Bellarmino University)  
2001 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40205

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pearson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D.*



Pearson Funeral Home - July 25 at 12:33 PM

RA

“ *Blessings on your family as you celebrate the life of Allan this week. Robert and I are unable to express our condolences in person as he is in the hospital just now - receiving chemotherapy in a clinical trial for lymphoma. There are so many fond memories of gatherings and celebrations where your parents were the life and center of the parties, great hosts, always attending to the details that provided such enjoyment for us all. One special memory is of the Katty Smith musical event at the River Valley toasting a heart surgery milestone....that was kind of a "roast" of Allan which he took with a great sense of humor and appreciation. Such a talented and caring soul we won't see again!*

*Robert and Cindy Adelberg*



Robert and Cindy Adelberg - July 23 at 04:23 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I only met Dr. Lansing twice, but those encounters altered my life for the better. I was a member of the first graduating class of the Allan and Donna Lansing School of Nursing at Bellarmine College. The first time I was in a hallway on 8 Towers at Jewish trying to hide my tears from the seasoned nurses who could be a little rough on first year students. I had never been to a large hospital, had never been to 'the city' much less driven in it. I formed a close relationship with my first patient and was devastated at the end of the week when she passed after complications from anesthesia. This elegant man, even in scrubs, asked me why I was crying. I wiped my face very quickly and apologized. When I told him, he smiled sympathetically, placed his hand on my shoulder and said "Young lady, crying is the body's first defense against an MI. I would not want you to be a heart patient." I suppose he told a nurse because she found me and asked if I knew who had caught me crying. I felt like a fool until I realized that the other nurses made me feel that way; he never did. During our last semester, he spoke to our class and all the College big wigs. He echoed so much of what we felt. Excellent book grades are not the most important makings of a great nurse. He had 'tried to read the Philosophy book' chosen for us but 'found it difficult to follow and of no real use.' We cheered for him as if he were Denny Crum! I vowed from that moment I would never participate in making any nurse or nursing student feel small. I wish I had a nickel for every person I have quoted his statement to. More importantly, I wish this world had so many more people like him.

*Beth Fischer Adams*

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**Beth Adams** - July 23 at 01:54 PM

RW

“ Every 2 years when the family gathered together at Lucky Lodge in July for a week, Allan and I always managed to fit in a quiet talk together, and he would always tuck in the same comment each time. "Ruth, even after all these many years all Donna has to do is look up into my face and her 2 big brown eyes make me melt and I fall in love with her all over again, as I did when we met in college, and I knew I was going to marry her." What a wonderful memory of a truly special, skilled, talented, gentleman's gentle man that I hold in my heart! Cousin Ruth Washburn

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**Ruth Washburn** - July 22 at 05:38 PM

C7

*I remember visiting Donna & Allan, along with my parents, shortly after Donna & Allan were married. They were living in a 3rd floor of a low- rise apartment complex on High st. in London. Their only table was a card table with 4 folding chairs. The end tables were orange crates that Donna had covered with chintz to disguise what they were. How far they came from their humble beginnings! Many lives touched!. Many lives saved! I'm proud to have been a cousin to two wonderful individuals.*  
*Chuck Boyd*

Charles Boyd 7 - July 25 at 05:01 PM



“ So sorry to hear of another "Old Guard" gone. Will miss the memorial. Taking Mom, (Rose Thompson) up to Long Island to intern her ashes. They sure knew how to party. Miss them all.

Linda Heck - July 22 at 12:43 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D..



July 21 at 11:40 AM

AF

“ The kindest and most hospitable person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. His lasting legacy of helping countless people and selfless giving to others will be remembered.

Anthony Flowers - July 21 at 01:50 AM

PJ

“ I was born in 1963 with congenital heart defects, I had 2 heart surgeries, one at the age of 1 years old and my actual open heart repair in 1969 when I was 6. He was very kind and gentle unlike a lot of the doctors and nurses I encountered as a child. I remember him having the best strawberry candy on his desk at every visit. I will always remember him as a wonderful surgeon/cardiologist for me, and a blessing for my life.

Patrecia Jeffries - July 20 at 04:29 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D..*



July 20 at 09:51 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D..*



July 20 at 09:40 AM

KN

“ *In 1968 when I was 5, DR Lansing performed an aortic bypass, not common for that time period. Very grateful for his work and career. His lifetime of caring and giving was his gift to all. Thank you and condolences.*

**KEITH NOBLE** - July 20 at 02:00 AM

JH

“ *My mother was an LPN at Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital in the 70's and 80's. She worked with Dr. Lansing and was also his patient. She discussed her dreams of being an RN with him and he encouraged her to do so.*

*She enrolled in Belleramine in 1982. Sadly, she passed in July 1983 a month after her second open heart surgery. When Dr. Lansing heard my mother had passed, he forgave her medical debt. I will always remember his kindness.*

**Joyce Taylor Herth** - July 19 at 10:16 PM

MA

“ *I was so fortunate to work with both Drs Lansing and Howerton in kidney transplantation. So many precious memories. My condolences to the family. Mohammad Amin.*

**Mohammad Amin** - July 19 at 06:31 PM

DR

“ One of the most talented Physicians with which I have been blessed to work. He not only cared about his patients and their families. He also cared about the nurses, techs, & therapist that cared for his patients. He was a constant teacher & mentor. Thank you, Dr. Lansing, may you Rest in Peace~

Dana L. Davis RN - July 19 at 03:19 PM

TF

“ Back in 1963/64, Dr Lansing performed a valve/heart operation on my 15 mos old brother. He survived the operation, but died a week later. My parents were in grief, but have always talked about Dr Lansing with great admiration and how caring he was - even a few years later when they ran into each other. Thank you.

The Kenneth Goodman family - July 19 at 12:47 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Allan Meredith Lansing M.D., Ph.D..



July 18 at 11:11 PM