



Dr. John M. Croci

March 31, 1947 - April 12, 2015

Dr. John M. Croci, age 68, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 12, 2015, surrounded by his wife of 45 years Susan and his sons Matthew and David.

John was born on March 31, 1947 in Toledo to Leander and Rosemary Croci who have preceded him in death. He grew up in West Toledo, attending Gesu Elementary School before moving to St. Francis DeSales High School. During his time at SFS, John was Student Council President, an All-City football player and was presented the Salesian Award as a senior in 1965.

He attended the University of Toledo where he was a member of Alpha Epsilon (Pre-Medical Honorary) from 1966-1969 and was President of AED in 1969. John graduated from UT in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree and enrolled in The Medical College of Ohio. As part of the charter class at MCO, he graduated with his medical degree in 1972 and soon after welcomed the birth of his son Matthew.

John performed his Family Practice Residency at Akron City Hospital from 1972-1975. In 1974, his son David was born and John took over as Chief Resident of Family Practice residency for Akron City Hospital in 1975. Later in 1975, John went into private practice with Fallen Timbers Family Physicians as a founding member and stayed with the practice until he retired as its senior member in 2013.

During his professional career, John was the Director of the Toledo Chapter of the American Cancer Society 1991-1994, President of the Toledo and Lucas County Family Practice Academy 1982-1983, District IV Director Ohio Association of Family Physicians 1981-1982, Team physician for Maumee High School 1976-1986, Member of American Academy of Family Physicians, Charter Member of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and Diplomat of the American Academy of Family Practice 1975-2015.

John's St. Luke's Hospital appointments are highlighted by being on active staff at St. Luke's Hospital from 1975-2013, Chief of Staff 1996-1997, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1998-2001, Chairman of the Watson Open Committee 1980-2013 and being the 2014 winner of the Clair F. Martig Award given annually to an individual who has substantially contributed to the growth and prosperity of St. Luke's Hospital. In addition, John chaired or served on every committee at St. Luke's Hospital.

John also left his mark on many other medical professionals through his teaching experience. He served as a Preceptor at The WW Knight Family Residency Program from 1976-1995, Clinical Associate Professor of Family Practice at MCO from 1978-2002 and as Preceptor for The Family Practice Residency at MCO 1977-2002.

John was an active member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Also, in his spare time, John was a founding member of the Banzai ski club and the Gumba breakfast club. Some of his interests included traveling, boating, skiing, gardening, running/walking (2009 Boulder Boulder Marathon) and learning Italian. John also played the role of a home renaissance man, the family barber and a lover of all gadgets. While these hobbies and activities occupied time away from practicing medicine, his true passion was spending time with his family and friends.

John affected his family, friends, colleagues and patients with his boundless energy, zest for life, genuine care for others and his willingness to go the extra mile for anyone that needed him.

John is survived by his wife of 45 years Susan, sons Matthew and David, daughters-in-law Patrice and Katie, grandchildren Sophia, Cecilia, Alison, Cameron, Olivia and Drew, brothers Ronald (Jody) and Henry (Suzanne), many longtime Toledo friends, hundreds of committed medical colleagues and thousands of grateful patients.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2015, at Corpus Christi University Parish, 2955 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio. A funeral mass will also be held at Corpus Christi at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 25th, 2015. Refreshments will be served following the mass until 2:30PM.

Memorial contributions can be made to Corpus Christi Catholic Student Association (CSA) or St. Francis DeSales High School.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Corpus Christi University Parish
2955 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Tribute Wall



“WOW, just now seeing this for the first time. I remember watching the photo on the wall of all the doctor....in order of seniority. Dr. Croci was the newest doctor and I was assigned to him. As the years went by someone would retire, a new doctor would be hired in, a new photo was taken and hung on the wall. I remember well him moving to the top position of seniority. I was sad to see him retire but happy he was able to do what he loved for so long. I'm sure his family still have moments of missing him and/or wanting to share something with him. Perhaps they will stop by and read this wall. Know that he has a spot in many others lives as he helped keep us healthy over the years. Sincerely, Anna Quisno.

Anna Shultz-Quisno - August 21, 2018 at 09:43 PM

CW

“My deepest condolences to Dr. Croci's family. I knew Dr. Croci through the support that he and Sue showed the entire Wittenberg basketball team (1991-1994). I remember seeing he and Sue after every game and during that time they became friends with my parents. I'm deeply saddened to hear about his passing, and our prayers are with his family.

Chris Wolfe

Chris Wolfe - April 25, 2015 at 12:01 PM

JL

“ I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Dr. John Croci's family. Our family was deeply saddened to hear about Dr. Croci's passing. Visits to doctors' offices are not one of my favorite pastimes; but visits with Dr. Croci were different. His medical knowledge and bedside manner were truly exceptional. I feel blessed that Dr. Croci was my only primary care physician; but, more than that, I considered him to be a good friend. Since our ages and the ages of our mothers were only a couple of years apart, we had a lot in common. Dr. Croci related well to our medical needs and provided help in a uniquely compassionate manner. Although he was always very busy, he never behaved that way. He took the time required to answer our questions and was able to explain difficult subjects in a simple manner. Dr. Croci was the consummate family physician and an exceptional individual. He treated us like members of his family. I wish he could have had more time to enjoy his retirement with his family. It was truly a pleasure to know him.

Jeff Loos

Jeffrey Loos - April 24, 2015 at 10:43 PM

AG

“ Matt and Susan. I am very saddened by your loss and will be praying for you and your family. Thanks you for being such gracious hosts and making me feel welcome in your home. God bless you.

Anthony Gholson

Anthony Gholson - April 24, 2015 at 09:06 AM

KW

“ Sue,

I have many good memories of John and you from high school. My prayers are with you.

Keith Wesson

keith wesson - April 24, 2015 at 08:21 AM

PS

“ *He will be missed. I have never met a more caring doctor ever. It is sad his retirement was so short.*

Phil Steusloff - April 24, 2015 at 07:16 AM

PS

“ *Susan and family*

We have so many fond memories of ski trips with the Bonzai group. It was such a great way to get away from the pressures of medicine. John was always enthusiastic and willing to get us organized. We were so sorry to hear of his passing. Although we haven't been in Toledo for years, you are part of our wonderful memories. Please accept our condolences and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you grieve for your loss. Pat & Chas Snyder

pat & chas snyder - April 23, 2015 at 10:38 PM

BR

“ *Bob Reece purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Dr. John M. Croci.*



Bob Reece - April 23, 2015 at 03:34 PM

BR

“ *John possessed an amazing calmness in spite of circumstances surrounding him. A good friend and a very positive influence on my life in high school. Not a surprise he was loved as a husband, father and family physician. We will always remember his infectious smile as well.*

Bob Reece - April 23, 2015 at 02:27 PM

BG

“ *I was a patient of Dr. Croci for over 30 years. I am devastated by his passing. He was an absolutely fantastic, compassionate, kind doctor! I am so thankful to him for solving my migraine headaches and my high blood pressure! May God comfort you, his family, and give you strength. We will see Dr. Croci again in heaven! Bonnie Ganger, Toledo OH*

Bonnie Ganger - April 23, 2015 at 09:09 AM



“ Dr. Croci was my parent's doctor before he was mine, but over the course of 36 years, he saw not only us, but eventually my husband and children. I'll never forget the morning after my daughter was born. He was doing rounds at St. Luke's and snuck into my room at 6 something in the morning to tell me that he had already seen her and that she was beautiful! He was always so happy to see both of my girls. I loved how delighted he was with their progress and am so glad that he saw them through their early years. He never failed to reassure you and to let you know that he would do his best to answer all your questions. We were so sad when he retired, my girls especially. They truly loved going to see him. I give him all the credit for making doctor visits fun and not scary, no matter what needed to be done. I was stunned when my mom called to tell me that he was gone. It seemed like just a short time ago that we were talking about who he would recommend us to transfer to once he was fishing! It still seems strange to call the office and not hear his name on the prompts. Our condolences and prayers are with his family. Thank you for allowing him to be part of ours.

Erin Leiser - April 23, 2015 at 08:48 AM

DD

“ Don And Donna Doneff sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. John M. Croci



Don and Donna Doneff - April 23, 2015 at 08:20 AM

BW

“ I am sorry for your loss. Dr. Croci was the physician for our entire family. He was the epitome of what a family physician should be, caring from young to old with compassion, integrity and up-to-date evidence based medicine. He was a mentor for me to become a physician myself. I shadowed him in college and wrote a letter a recommendation for my acceptance to MCO. Dr. Croci literally saved my dad's life. He detected a condition that others had missed. His timely diagnosis and treatment plan were instrumental in his survival. He will be truly missed.
Bryant Walrod, M.D.

Bryant Walrod - April 22, 2015 at 06:54 PM

TS

“ We are so sorry for the loss of Dr. Croci. He was our family physician from 1976 until his retirement. We feel so fortunate to have had such a kind and caring doctor for our family. At the end of each visit, he would sit back and say, "Now have I missed anything?" - a wonderful testament to the compassionate man and doctor that he was. Our community has suffered a great loss, and we miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Croci's family.
Mike and Trudy Scheiding

Trudy Scheiding - April 22, 2015 at 10:58 AM

BP

“ We are glad to have him as our doctor knowing he cared about each individual person. He will be missed.
John and Barbara Pike

Barbara Pike - April 22, 2015 at 09:02 AM

CB

“ I am so thankful that my family and I were able to be patients of Dr. Croci for nearly 30 years. He always committed himself to the individual, listening and providing the care needed, taking the time necessary to really hear and help the patient in a truly holistic way. His kindness and compassion are a rarity that will be greatly missed.

My only regret is that he had so little retirement time to enjoy with his family.

I pray that wonderful memories will comfort the Croci family at this time of loss.

Cindee Boaz

Cindee Boaz - April 21, 2015 at 11:30 PM

LS

“ Dr. Croci was my doctor from birth and also treated my children. We considered him to be part of our family and always looked forward to visits with him. I'm so sad to hear of his passing and I share his families grief. He was a great man and will be deeply missed.

Lindsay Suckow - April 21, 2015 at 07:34 PM

DE

“ I was so sorry to read of the loss of Dr. Croci. He was our doctor for more years than I can remember. He was always kind and gentle with my kids. My prayers will be with you and your family during this sad time. May God bless you all.

Ron and Debbie Engel and family

debbie engel - April 21, 2015 at 06:50 PM

JT

“ Sincere sympathy to the Family of Dr. John M. Croci, and all who are mourning his loss. He was our Family Physician almost from the beginning of his practice at Fallen Timbers. My last appointment with him was in 2013 just before he retired.

Dr. Croci was such a kind and caring man and Physician. He never seemed to lose patience with his patients; at least not with us. I have heard of no replacement for him.

May God grant all the blessings needed by all who are mourning his loss, especially his family, now and beyond. May the soul of Dr. Croci be with God in Paradise.

Jean Tomalis and Family

Jean Tomalis - April 21, 2015 at 04:33 PM



GD

“ John was one of my mentors during my family medicine residency training at MCO who exemplified what a family physician should be. In addition to his quality and competency his communication skills were second to none. He made the patients feel that he had all the time in the world to listen to their concerns. Please accept my deepest sympathies Susan as I will be out of town this weekend at a medical association meeting. Ironically, John was a great influence in encouraging me to get active in the politics of medicine at a young age when we traveled together to an OAFP meeting. George Darah

George N. Darah - April 21, 2015 at 03:35 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John M. Croci.*



April 21, 2015 at 03:25 PM

“ *FAMILY PHYSICIAN GRADUATED WITH THE 1ST CLASS AT MCO*

DR. JOHN M. CROCI, 1947 - 2015

(News Article) Dr. John M. Croci, a family-practice physician for 38 years who was a former chief of staff at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee, died April 12 at his family's vacation home in Key West, Fla. He was 68.

He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer about five weeks ago, said his wife, Susan.

Dr. Croci was invited by the founding partners of Fallen Timbers Health Care Services to join the practice in 1975, just after he completed a three-year residency in family medicine at an Akron hospital. The Fallen Timbers center, built in the early 1970s near St. Luke's, was formed by doctors Les Huffman, Donna Woodson, and Dan Sullivan.

Dr. Croci decided on a career in family medicine while he was in medical school, his wife said. Mrs. Croci said her husband liked caring for patients from birth through childhood and well into adult life.

"Each rotation he went through in medical school, he just enjoyed everything. But he didn't want to specialize. He wanted to take care of the whole family," she said. "He was the quintessential family doctor who cared deeply about his patients and took care of the whole family. He had many generations of patients from the same family."

Dr. Brian Miller, a physician who practiced at Fallen Timbers, said Dr. Croci delivered many generations of babies.

"Those were the ones he cherished the most. Caring for multigenerations of families meant the most to him," he said.

Dr. Miller said Dr. Croci was respected by other physicians and the health-care community as well as his patients.

"John was a physician without peers. He knew his medicine inside and out. He always gave the care at a very personal level," he said.

"People thought of him as a family physician and as a member of the family."

He was appointed to the St. Luke's staff in 1975 and became chief of staff from 1996 to 1997. He later served on the hospital's board of trustees and executive committee.

For his service to St. Luke's, he was given the hospital's Clair F. Martig Award, an honor bestowed annually if a deserving recipient is identified. He retired from Fallen Timbers in 2013.

He was active in many local, state, and national medical groups. He was director of the Toledo Chapter of the American Cancer Society from 1991 to 1994, president of the Toledo and Lucas County Family Practice Academy from 1982 to 1983, and District IV director of the Ohio Association of Family Physicians from 1981 to 1982.

Born March 31, 1947, to Rosemary and Leander Croci, he graduated from St. Francis DeSales High School, where he was student council president and played guard on the football team. He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Toledo in 1969.

While in high school, mutual friends introduced him to his future wife, the former Susan Rowland, who attended Notre Dame Academy. They married on Aug. 16, 1969, just two weeks before he began medical school.

He was a member of the first graduating class, in 1972, of the Medical College of Ohio, now UT's College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Surviving are his wife, Susan; sons, Matthew and David; brothers, Ronald and Henry, and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday in Corpus Christi University Parish, where a funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday. The Coyle Funeral Home handled arrangements.

The family suggests tributes to the Corpus Christi Catholic Student Association or St. Francis DeSales High School.

This article was written by Toledo Blade staff. (Published The Blade Tuesday April 21, 2015)

SH

“ Dr. Croci was just at my husband Lowell's visitation on March 5. I thought it was so kind of him to come. He got to see my son who he hadn't seen since he was a teenager. (he is 47 now). I never had an appointment with Dr. Croci where he didn't ask me how my son Steve was doing. He had such a memory for the events in the life of his patients. A few months ago I sent him a photo of Terry Francona, Cleveland Indians Manager, because we always said they looked alike. He responded with a nice letter. He was a very special man. Shirley Hinkle

Shilrey Hinkle - April 21, 2015 at 08:34 AM

CR

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to your family at this time of sorrow. He was my Mom's Dr. from the beginning and our families for about 30 years. What a caring compassionate Dr. and person he was. He cared about your life, not just your ailment. I was devastated when he retired, but happy for him and your family. I was shocked to read of his passing, you all have my deepest condolences. Carol Roscoe

Carol Roscoe - April 20, 2015 at 05:59 PM

DB

“ Such a wonderful physician and man! I worked with Dr. Croci at St. Lukes Hospital and respected every aspect of his care and person.

Debi Barden - April 20, 2015 at 05:08 PM

MC

“ *Maumee Physical Therapy & Aquatics Center purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. John M. Croci.*



Maumee Physical Therapy & Aquatics Center - April 20, 2015
at 01:32 PM

MB

“ *I was shocked and saddened to read about the loss of Dr. John Croci. Obviously he was very talented and was a great contributor to his community, family and friends. It will be a substantial loss to everyone he touched. May time bring your family peace and comfort in having had his amazing influence in your lives.*
With sincere sympathy,
Marianne Ballas

Marianne Ballas - April 20, 2015 at 11:28 AM

SB

“ *Dr. Croci (Doc) was our family doctor for over 30 years. He was compassionate, caring and truly a great man and doctor. He truly loved his patients and the big smile on his face when he entered the room, proved as much. There was and never will be another doctor like Doc Croci!*

He will be immensely missed and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Daryl and Sue Bell, Toledo, Ohio

Sue Bell - April 20, 2015 at 08:23 AM

DO

“ Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember him. We will miss him.

Dr. Mack's Dental Office - April 20, 2015 at 07:17 AM

DK

“ Dr. Croci was our doctor since 1976 when we moved to the Anthony Wayne area with our three sons. He was a kind, caring and compassionate doctor. We were very upset when he told us he was going to retire. He recommended new doctors for us. We are devastated by your loss...He was a wonderful doctor, friend and person. We feel BLESSED to have known him...
Dick and Jackie Kamm

Dick and Jackie Kamm - April 19, 2015 at 07:18 PM


Jennifer
Lamley

“ Dr. Croci was my family's physician for about 20 years. I have a fond memory of him coming see me each day while I was hospitalized, waiting to deliver my twins, even though he wasn't my PCP at the time. I will always remember Dr. Croci as a kind, caring, and compassionate man.

Jennifer Lamley - April 19, 2015 at 05:03 PM

HF

“ Our sincerest condolences. Dr. Croci was the best doctor I've ever had. He treated four generations of my family. My little girl loved going to see him and would pretend to be him at home. We are so blessed to have been his patients. Sending many prayers.

Heather Koziarski (Sahadi Family) - April 19, 2015 at 04:07 PM

JH

“ Susan, Matt, and Dave: The SJJ football and baseball games to see Dave and our Tim...the SJJ basketball games to watch Matt...most of all the friendship that developed. As John's patients, we felt so safe under John's watchful eye and direction. We are so sorry he left you so early and hope the memories of his fabulous life provides you a degree of comfort now.

Jeff, Raeanne, and Tim

Jeff Hohl - April 19, 2015 at 12:22 PM

TH

“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. John was such a great part of the Medical community and truly dedicated to his family. It is with great regret that we will miss the services as we will be out of the country.

Our prayers are with you.

Martha and Tom Houston

Tom Houston - April 19, 2015 at 11:47 AM

 Jolene
Katafiasz

“ Dr. Croci will be sorely missed by so many. May God welcome him to home and provide comfort to his family and friends. Thank you for all you did for your patients. Sending prayers and condolences.

Jolene Katafiasz - April 19, 2015 at 10:03 AM

SW

“ John was our family doctor for 37 years. Not only that, he was also our friend. He was a very special man who made a difference in our lives.

To the Croci family, we send our heart felt condolences, thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort at this most difficult time. Godspeed John. RIP.

Sue & Tom Wierzbicki

Sue and Tom Wierzbicki - April 19, 2015 at 09:01 AM

DC

“ All the Banzai Guys and their gals knew what being "Crocified" on the ski slopes meant. He would lead and say "they're all flat at the bottom". We love you and miss you John. Dr.and Mrs. Gerald Cichocki, Frisco, Texas

Dr. And Mrs. Gerald Cichocki - April 19, 2015 at 09:01 AM

CH

“ Dear Croci Family,
My sincere condolences for your loss. Dr. Croci was my family physician for many years. He was thoughtful and caring. He helped my family through many illnesses. Thank you for sharing him with so many patients. May God give you comfort and strength during this time.

Christina (Bellner) Hamm

Christina Hamm - April 19, 2015 at 06:48 AM

KM

“ Dr. Croci was a wonderful man. He was so nice to my parents and my siblings. He brought in three generations for my parents and when my dad passed away he was so compassionate to my mom and always took extra time with her after that. I will always be grateful and he is a man who will be missed, but carries a great legacy! There will never be anyone who can step into his shoes. My thoughts and prayers to your family. Kim M. and Barb E.

Kim Mehling - April 19, 2015 at 06:04 AM

WE

“ Dr. Croci was my dr. for 36 years. He went out of his way to help my family any time we needed it. It was very evident how much he cared for his patients. I am heartbroken to hear of his passing and am praying for your family during this sad time.

Wendy - April 18, 2015 at 10:46 PM



Our family was so very saddened to hear of Dr. Croci's untimely passing. He was our family doctor for 37 years, treating not only my husband and I, but also our daughter's family. The grandchildren loved him and looked forward to seeing him as long as there were no shots involved. I remember accompanying my daughter to my newborn granddaughter's first visit and as he checked her over he looked up at me with a twinkle in his eye and said "This is what it's all about". He was a kind, compassionate physician and would always ask as he prepared to leave the room if there was anything else he could do for us. He helped me through some serious medical problems and I so appreciated him. Our prayers are with all of you as you journey on in life without him.

Tom and Sandi Hamrick

Lyle Hamrick - April 22, 2015 at 06:43 PM

DD

Don and I are very saddened to hear of John's passing. We always loved to chat with him about so many things and especially his beloved Italy. We will always remember all the wonderful advise he shared with us

We are so sorry we will miss the service but we will be in Wisconsin celebrating our granddaughters 1st Communion but our hearts and mind will be with you this weekend.

Don and Donna Doneff - April 23, 2015 at 08:19 AM