



Richard Nelson Jopling

November 18, 1934 - January 12, 2020

Dr. Richard (Dick) Jopling , father, grandfather, Baba, and beloved pediatrician passed away suddenly on January 12, 2020. For over half a century, Dr. Jopling cared for, counseled, educated, and worried about generations of Visalia's families and their children.

Richard was born to Harvey and Helen Jopling in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on November 18, 1934. He grew up on a farm in the small town of Champion. After graduating from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1959, he moved to California to complete his residency in Internal Medicine at the Springville County Hospital. Richard completed his residency in pediatrics at the Vancouver General Hospital in British Columbia, Canada from 1962-64. He then returned to Springville, CA to serve as the Chief of Pediatrics from 1964-1967. In 1967, he moved his family to Visalia where he set up practice alongside the late Dr. John Castiglione

Dr. Jopling was a Pediatrician 24/7. He worked long hours in his Pediatric Practice serving alongside many dedicated doctors. Even the long hours in his practice couldn't keep him from serving the community. He served as Doctor on Call at football games as well as providing sports physical at local high schools. He volunteered at the Good Samaritan Clinic for years using his skill as a pediatrician to help others. The Pediatric wing of Kaweah Delta Hospital bears his name along with four other dedicated Pediatric pioneers in Visalia recognizing their service to the children of Visalia.

What people remember most about Dr. Jopling is his calm, quiet, unassuming manner that gave parents confidence that everything would be all right. He listened to parents and patients and always had the time to make the most active or frightened child or teen comfortable.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Gary. He is survived by his brother William Jopling and 3 nephews, his children Jodi (Phil) Fortney, Jerri (Mike

Matson) Jopling and John (Cheree Wilhelmsen) Jopling and his grandchildren Reilly and Shaye Fortney, Jason Jopling and Ethan Jopling

Dr. Richard (Dick) Jopling's whole life was about being a pediatrician. His legacy of serving, caring, educating and healing will live on in the lives of his children and grandchildren.

For those who knew and loved him, a celebration of life will be held at the Visalia Country Club on February 22 from 2:00-4:00. Please RSVP by February 12, 2020 to Jopling2020@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Good Samaritan Clinic or Valley Children's Hospital.

Comments



“ He was my Dr. from 1973-2000. Also, for my two sisters. Such an amazing individual! Great man, he will be missed!

mark buhl - February 07 at 02:26 PM



“ Dr. Jopling was the best of the very best.. the way he cared and the way he healed.. beyond compare.. no pediatrician has measured up since, and for me, his straight forward way of asking questions as well as explaining answers, was so endearing to me.. he is so missed in this community. We were so lucky to have him as long as we did.. Rest in blissful peace, Dr. Jopling..

Leslie Rutledge - February 06 at 08:31 AM



“ If ever there was a finer or more caring physician than Dr. Jopling, I never met the person. He was extremely conscientious and was patient and kind even when I called after-hours. My children adored him and never were afraid of doctor visits. He cannot be replaced. The world will miss him.

Kristeen Keller - February 05 at 09:55 PM



“ This gentle soul was my amazing pediatrician when I was born at just a few pounds and fighting to live. He was later my kids pediatrician. He always remembered my history and used it to help treat my kids. There are no words to thank him for all he has done for my family. We love him dearly. May he rest in peace.



Sarah ayon - February 05 at 03:20 PM



“ Dr. Jopling was an excellent pediatrician to my three children and I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.
Susan Maday

Susan Maday - February 01 at 01:35 AM



“ Dr. Jopling was an amazing doctor. He treated our 3 daughters from birth through college. If one of them was sick, he'd see them all and never charge for the other two. He was warm and compassionate.

Dena Benson - January 29 at 03:59 AM



“ Dr. Jopling was the best pediatrician in the county. My two children actually enjoyed going to the doctor and being seen . He took care of them from birth on. He would even see them when they went off to college. Incredible man.
My parents are indebted to him because he saved my brothers life when he was days old. My brother is 52 years of age and is a wonderful principal .
We will truly miss him and send our deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Jopling.

Rachel Gonzales - January 23 at 08:14 PM



“ Rachel Gonzales lit a candle in memory of Richard Nelson Jopling



Rachel Gonzales - January 23 at 08:07 PM