

# Founding St. Mary Mercy chief of staff remembered

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A founding St. Mary Mercy



Robert Lilly

Hospital staff member is being remembered as a highly-dedicated physician.

Regardless of the hour or circumstances, Dr. Robert Patrick Lilly attended to his patients' needs, say those who knew him.

Lilly, 76, died Sept. 7 at St. Mary where he served terms as chief of staff and chief of surgery.

"I was talking to our parish priest and he said to me, 'You'd sound like the type of doctor who worked with his heart and well as with his brain,'" said daughter Christine Drainville, one of the family's 10 children. "That is the best way to describe him."

Lilly started at St. Mary Hospital in 1959 and continued with his surgical practice until 1995. He served as medical director at Angela Hospice until his retirement in 1998.

"His heart was as big as the

10-gallon Texan hat he loved to wear coming or going," said Angela Hospice's Sister Giovanni. "Our staff, volunteers, patients, and families truly appreciated his calm and caring ways."

"I trust he died as he lived, with his cowboy boots on."

He was the Michigan State Medical Society's Wayne County delegate and a member of the Wayne County Medical Ethics Committee, the Wayne County Surgical Society and the American College of Surgeons.

"Dr. Lilly was a very devoted surgeon who was loyal to the hospital," said Dr. Vali Orandi, St. Mary Mercy chief of staff.

Lilly earned his medical degree at Wayne State University

and his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan.

In 1994 at age 69, he earned a master's degree in business for medical professionals at Madonna University.

His passion for medicine inspired others.

Five of his 10 children have careers in the medical profession. Lilly also regularly spoke during career days at U-of-D Jesuit, his alma mater.

He was preceded in death by wife Patricia. The couple was married for 44 years.

Survivors include: daughters Christine (Gary) Drainville, Ellen (Pete) Govorchin, Kathryn Lilly, Patricia (Jim Morris) Lilly, Marianne (Robert Abraham)

Lilly, Janet (Frank) Liosman, Jeanne (Rick Kaye) Lilly, Dianne (Scott) Gavin; sons Dr. Charles II (Dorine) Lilly, Robert Jr. (the late Paula) Lilly; sisters Joanna Steele, Phyllis McClellan and Ellen Kramer; and mother Bertha. He is also survived by 24 grandchildren.

During the past two years, the former Farmington Hills resident lived at Marywood Nursing Home in Livonia during the past two years.

The Rev. Msgr. Walter Hurley performed a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Sept. 10. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home handled arrangements.

## OBITUARIES

### GLADYS D. BRITTON

A memorial service for Gladys Davis Britton, 98, of Farmington Hills will be held Sept. 23 at First Presbyterian Church in Bay City with burial at Elm Lawn Cemetery in Bay City.

Mrs. Britton was born July 4, 1903, in Bay City and died Sept. 12 at Lutheran Home in Livonia. She worked as a clerk for Conner's Power and was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Bay City.

She is survived by son, Samuel; daughter, JoAnn Cline; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lutheran Homes of Michigan.

Arrangements were made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Arrangements were made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

### EDLA D. BJORN

Edla Dagmar Bjorn, 78, of Farmington died Sept. 12, 2001, at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was born Sept. 2, 1923, in Mohawk, Mich.

Mrs. Bjorn worked for Durell's Pub & Grub and was a member of the Finnish Cultural Center Association. She was also a World War II Army veteran.

She is survived by sons, Larry (Jody) Brock, Robert (Susan) Brock and Gary (Delores) Brock; brothers, Ruben and Oliver Bjorn; sister, Violet Salo; and grandchildren, Nathan, Anna and Robyn.

### GEORGE P. O'MALLEY

Services for George Patrick O'Malley, 90, of Farmington Hills were held Sept. 14 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. O'Malley was born Aug. 9, 1911, in Ireland and died Sept. 10, 2001, in Farmington Hills. He was a World War II Army veteran.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Grace. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington.

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