



## Wayne Beck

September 16, 1946 - April 8, 2012

Wayne Emil Beck, M.D., of Prescott, Ariz., ascended into heaven on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012, where he could comfortably watch his grandchildren hunt for Easter eggs. Wayne was the 11th child of Nelson and Louise Beck, born at their home in Tucson, Ariz., on Sept. 16, 1946. When asked about being the youngest of 11, Wayne would smile and say it took 11 attempts to achieve perfection. His family relocated to a farm in Glendale, Ariz., where he raised 4H animals, swam in irrigation ditches, ate watermelons from the fields in the summertime and developed a love of the land. He lost his father at 9 years of age and moved in with his older sister, Karen Dennis, and her family. Having already developed an independent nature and strong desire to be self-reliant, Wayne supported himself as a paperboy, working evenings at Bashas Grocery in the meat department and on the loading docks of a local garment factory. Glendale High School was a special place where football and wrestling provided a competitive outlet, and participation in FFA and student government allowed for personal growth. He was awarded the Future Farmers of America State Farmer of the Year award in 1964, served as state treasurer 1964-1965 and won a national speaking contest in 1964. He traveled the state visiting chapters and forming lifelong friendships. His weekends were spent working, cruising Central Avenue in his 1955 Chevy or hanging out with friends at spur-of-the-moment street dances held in the cotton fields around Glendale. In 1964, he enrolled at the University of Arizona and, thus, he became "A WILDCAT FOR LIFE"! He lived in the Aggie House with other young men from rural Arizona and was a member of ROTC attaining the rank of Army captain. As a University of Arizona student, he was chief justice of the Men's Judicial System and a senator for the College of Agriculture. He earned a BA in animal science (1968), an MS in animal science/biochemistry (1970) while working as a graduate researcher and instructor, followed by a medical doctorate (1975). He completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Maricopa County Medical Center in Phoenix in 1978. In 1979, he moved his family to Prescott, Ariz., a town he had developed an affinity for as a young child. He and his partner Robert Abt, M.D., opened Prescott Women's Clinic. For him it was a privilege to care for the women of Prescott and he was honored for the opportunity to do so. He cherished the relationships that developed over the years with his patients and staff. He would rejoice over the birth of a child or shed tears in times of sorrow. When physical

conditions forced his retirement, his first thoughts were of how much he would miss delivering babies and the surgical side of his practice. Later he realized what he really missed was the doctor/patient relationships and the friendships that meant so much to him during his 33 years of private practice. Wayne was recognized as one of America's top obstetrician/gynecologists from 2002-2006. Always striving to provide his patients and the community with the best possible care, he was a founding member and president of the Prescott Outpatient Surgery Center as well as director of the Bagdad Clinic located in Bagdad, Ariz., which he took over operations of in 1980. This allowed him to connect with the people of Bagdad and provide them access to the best healthcare providers. Wayne loved Mexico and, through his associations in the medical community, he saw an opportunity to help. The acquisition of the clinic in Bagdad and the remodeling of the Prescott Outpatient Surgery Center resulted in semis full of medical equipment that through the help of the Lion's Club of Puerto Penasco were donated to the hospitals in Rocky Point. This was a lifelong activity with the family routinely picking up supplies and delivering them to Mexico. Wayne was honored by many of the service clubs in Rocky Point and the mayor for his contribution to their community. In later years, he renewed his connections with the U of A. He was a founding member of the College of Agriculture Alumni Council and currently serves on the board. Additionally, he served on the UA Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as the College of Medicine Board of Directors and was the founder and president of the College of Medicine Alumni Council. In 2010, he was awarded The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award. Yes, he bleeds Red and Blue. Wayne also enjoyed expanding his knowledge in the business world. He was a founder of County Bank and served as the president of the board of directors. His love of land and opportunity led to numerous real estate and business development partnerships with friends and family throughout the state of Arizona including part owner and member of the board of directors for Arizona Land Advisors, Everest Holdings and Lobo Ranches as well as the founder and president of Beck Legacy Group. Wayne was married to Nelda Northen. Wayne and Nelda met in grade school and enjoyed a friendship through their high school years that grew into a love that lasted a lifetime. He often referred to her as his best friend. Together they raised three children, Kimberli, Dane and Inga. He felt the best gifts he could give them were unconditional love and independence. He welcomed his sons-in-law Levi and Don into the family and was touched by the love, compassion and joy they brought to his daughters' lives. He was known to his grandchildren as "Babu," a Swahili word for grandfather. His face would light up at the mention of their names and he loved to watch their young personalities develop as they ran from one adventure to the next. Wayne was passionate about life and being part of the community. He believed that accomplishments mean little if one does not help those that follow achieve their dreams, always a mentor. He spent his time off traveling to all parts of the Southwest and Mexico to fish with friends,

explore or learn more about the geology that made this land so remarkable. The Colorado River was especially important to him from trips to Lake Powell, rafting the Colorado River or spending time on the Sea of Cortez. We will miss watching him as he worked crossword puzzles thinking of his next great idea or playing with his dogs that put his mind and body at ease. He is survived by his wife Nelda; children Kim (Don) Lee, Dane Beck, Inga (Levi) Brchan; grandchildren Gage Lee, Brayden Lee, Sydnee Lee, Beau Brchan, Finn Brchan and Clayton Brchan; sisters Susie Fox, Ruthie Stafford and Karen Dennis; and brother Hank Beck as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Wayne was a hugger who lived life in a big way, loved big and whose absence has left a big hole in our hearts. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Prescott Education Foundation, 125 N. Granite St., Prescott, AZ 86301. All funds donated are tax deductible and will be used for the creation of the Dr. Wayne Beck Scholarship Fund to benefit Prescott graduates with a focus on students enrolling at the University of Arizona. Also, contributions can be made to the Yavapai College Foundation for students in the nursing program, 1100 E. Sheldon St. Prescott, AZ 86301. With respect to Wayne's wishes, no formal funeral ceremony is planned. Please visit Wayne Beck on Facebook to share memories with the family. Information provided by survivors.

# Comments

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“ Tami Huston lit a candle in memory of Wayne Beck



**Tami Huston** - December 08, 2012 at 05:44 PM

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“ To the Beck Family:  
Our memories of Dr. Beck have always been a man who truly cared for his patients. He was a man of great character and he embodied what it meant to be a wonderful human being.  
We were proud to have known him. He delivered our son Joel, who will soon be thirteen.  
My heartfelt condolences to family and friends.  
Sincerely,  
Al & Maria Peraza

**Maria E. Peraza** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My memories of Dr. Beck have always been a man who truly cared for his patients. He was a man of great character and friendliness. I am very proud to have known him. He delivered my sons Patrick, Jon, and Adam. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, he was there for me and my family. He talked to me over and over again about my options. I am very thankful for having known him. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Sincerely, Marie Carbajal

**Marie Carbajal** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I'M SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS GBTHAND WARM REMEMBERING THE SCHOOL YEARS IN GLENDALE.

**bob rux** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My thoughts are with your family, so sorry for your loss. Jocko

Jocko - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was one of Dr. Beck's first patients after he moved to Prescott and started his practice with Dr. Abt. He always had a smile on his face and a big hug to give every time I saw him in the past 30 years. He was one of the few doctors that had a 'real' love and concern for his patients! He was truly a great man and will be very much missed! My sincere sympathy goes out to all of his family and close friends.

Kathy Bouton - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Nelda, so sorry to hear about Wayne's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Wayne was a great guy and made mutton-chops fashionable!!

Our Love,

Jeff & Dixie Price

Jeff and Dixie Price - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Wayne was one of the most delightful residents in the OB/GYN residency program when I was an RN in L&D. His sense of humor and personality was such a joy to have. He was loved by all!

Barbara Marquis - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Wayne was very very dear to me. He always had a hug and encouragement for me in what ever I was involved with at the time. I went thru Pre-Vet at ASU at 50 and he told me he went to medical school because it was so hard to get into Vet school. I think he just didn't want to leave Arizona, because as you all know he was way smart! He was a beloved mentor, I just emailed him a couple weeks ago and thought it odd I hadn't heard from him. I am so sorry to hear of his loss to Nelda and his family and the rest of us that loved him.

Love, Tonia

Tonia Fortner - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ To Wayne E Beck -

We shared the best of times. Thank you for all the memories. My deepest sympathy to Nelda, your children Dane, Kim, and Inga, and those beautiful grandchildren.

Love,  
Dolores Hankins

**Dolores Hankins** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to his family.  
If I could hug you all like he would me during my pregnancies I would. God Bless and God Speed Dr. Beck.

**Tammy Suttle** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Wayne was from Aggie House when I was an AGR and that didn't go over well in either direction. I got to know Wayne pretty well at the meat's lab our at the Campbell avenue farm. We ran into each other over the years and served on Boards together at the UofA. Wayne was a politician of the first degree and had an effect on happenings in Arizona in a positive manner. Those of us from the UofA will miss him, but we will definitely remember him. We had a lot of mutual friends.

**Tom Bennett** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sorry to hear about my old friend and football teammate. We had a great conversation at our 40th renunion.

His contributions will live forever.

My deepest condolences to Nelda and the kids.

Stan

**Stan Scheiber** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Family,  
I read Wayne's obit in the paper and wanted you all to know how much I remember Wayne from residency with great fondness and respect. I really didn't know why until

I read the obit that told how and where he was raised and what a great family life he built in Prescott. My thoughts are with you all and I am happy to have known Wayne.

**Nick Morrison** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ To the Beck Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Beck's passing. He was always so kind, and never made you feel rushed when you went to see him. He always made you feel like you were the only patient in the office. He was a wonderful doctor and person. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

**Tammy Hughes** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Nelda and family,  
We are so sorry for your loss and want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Bonnie, Mike and Dan all send their condolences. Wayne was a wonderful person in all respects, and we are thankful to have known him. You have our deepest sympathy. Tony & Pat Shaw and family

**Tony & Pat Shaw** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I will always remember Dr. Beck as a loving and wonderful doctor. He delivered all 3 of my boys and he was wonderful. always took excellent care of me. Even though I had major problems after my youngest was born he helped me understand what was wrong and helped to prevent me from having cancer. I will always love him for that. He had such a big heart and he will be truly missed. I am so grateful for him taking care of me. Thank you to his wonderful family for sharing such a wonderful man with the Prescott Community. There will never be another dr. like him. God Speed Dr. Beck.

**Teresa Cobey** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. I have many fond memories of growing up next door to Wayne and his family on "Mamie Ave".  
May you feel the comfort of God's love during this difficult time.

**Mil Sutter** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I can't say enough good things about Wayne Beck.

He managed to always make me feel good about myself, even when that was the last thing I felt. That is the mark of a true angel.

I'd like to share two poems, I think he would like both of them. The second one was written by my grandmother, Delia Gardner.

Sending love and condolences,

Delia Steiger Whitehead

A Parable of Immortality

By Henry Van Dyke

"I am standing upon the seashore.

A ship at my side

spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, 'There she goes!'"

"Gone where?

Gone from my sight.that is all.

She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the

moment when someone at my side says, 'There she goes!' there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout,

'Here she comes!'"

Hail and Farewell

(Reflection from a cabin in Skull Valley, over an old Indian camping ground. About 1945.)

Think not on my brittle bones mingling with dust, for

These

Are but a handful added

To those gone before.

Think, rather, that on this borrowed hill top

One lived joyously, and died content.

In this dark soil  
I found reminders, saying:  
"You, too, will pass; savor for us  
The wind and the sun."

From the smoke-blackened earth  
I dug  
A frail shell bracelet, shaped lovingly, skillfully,  
For a brown-skinned wrist, now dust.  
The broken piece of clay  
Was a doll's foot and leg, artfully curved  
Made for a brown eyed child.

Pottery shards, saying:  
"Yours for a little time only  
Take delight in this, as we did."

The tree will die; the vine wither and rattle in the wind.  
For I broke a law of Nature.  
I carried the water to the hill-top. Never the less,  
For those after me there will be  
These things I have loved:

Morning sun rays, slanting across the hill-top,  
Lighting the great trees in the green meadow.  
Wind, the great blue sky,  
Peace of the encircling hills  
And flaming glow of sunset.

Delia Gist Gardner

Delia (Deedie) Steiger Whitehead - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I first met Dr. Beck as a company representative in Bagdad in 2005. This business relationship immediately became a friendship and even a doctor/patient relationship when Dr. Beck performed surgery on me. When he recommended surgery for me I didn't even think about it for a minute. I went to the front desk at his practice and scheduled it immediately. I trusted Dr. Beck's judgment implicitly. During the five years that I lived in Bagdad I changed jobs several times where I no longer had community responsibilities. I still went to visit with Dr. Beck and the staff every two weeks when he would make his regular visits. I was always greeted in the same fashion with his big hug. He never failed to ask how I had been and how my family had been. He was truly interested in my life. Every time I brought a new person to meet him his response was always the same. we are here to serve. When I left he would hug me again and always tell me that he loved me and how much he

appreciated me.

As I read his obituary and all of the tributes that have been coming in I realize that Dr. Beck treated everyone as he treated me. like family. What an amazing and wonderful person! I really was truly blessed to have been touched by this special human being. My prayers and love are with Nelda and the Beck family. May God bless you and keep you in his loving care during this difficult time. I want to thank you as other have for sharing my friend, Dr. Beck with me.

**Kathy Sircy** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Nelda,  
Our sincere sympathy for your loss.  
What great memories of your life with Wayne. All the good times and the travels that you have done. He was a true Beck, he was going to do it his way. "Do not be sad that a live is gone, just rejoice and be happy that it happened."  
Love, Don and Judy

**Don & Judy Kersey** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dr. Beck was one of the most caring and wonderful men I have ever known, and by far my favorite doctor. You could not get out of the office without a hug. He performed all 15 of my necessary surgeries from the simple to the most scary and intricate. He was always there with a kind word and a strong shoulder and had a way of dispelling fear with just a smile.  
He will be missed by all who had the fortune to know him.

**Katie Johnson** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ We are saddened to learn of Dr. Becks passing. I remember Wayne from when he was a little kid. He was one more proud member of the Beck family who succeeded in everything he tried.

When we moved to Prescott in 1983 my wife told me whe had learned Wayne Beck is a new doctor in town. What a surprise. During our high school years at Glendale High we had the priviledge of having Beck brothers and sisters for friends. The family is still in our hearts. May you have solice in knowing Wayne looking down on you. 4 a 7ump

**Jerry and Sharon Eldridge** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dr. Beck was one of the kindest most caring person in the field of medicine I have ever met. He treated you as a if you were special and took whatever time was necessary to speak with you about your medical issues/concerns....He was a wonderful individual and Heaven has gained an angel with a the heart as big as the Grand Canyon and a sense of humor that could make anyone forget about their problems RIP Dr. Beck you will be missed here on earth...

**Susan F. Cox** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Although I haven't seen Wayne or Nelda since our 10 year reunion from Glendale Union High School, I felt a real sense of loss upon reading his obituary. My condolences to you, Nelda, and your family.  
I first met Wayne in Catechism class [7th grade]and my admiration for him as one of the 'good guys' grew from there. I am truly sorry to hear that this 'good guy' has died.

**Karen Flint Evans** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ -Many wonderful years and memories- just so short  
-Another graduation for wayne.  
-We will enjoy the family and remembering untill we are all together.

**john and karen** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dr. Beck was my life's favorite doctor. Always personalable beyond believe,never judged people, concerned and funny, always made me feel special as his patient and friend. Prescott and the medical assocaiation has lost a wonderfulman.

My heart felt thoughts go out to his family,

Terri Enequist

**TERRI ENEQUIST** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Corky can recall many times that he and Wayne visited while they were up in Page visiting. He enjoyed his humor and many stories.

**Corky and Mary Ann Grace** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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**Les & Shirley Fenderson** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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We were deeply saddened to hear of Wayne's passing and hope the peace which comes from the many memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead. God bless and take care.

**Les & Shirley Fenderson**

**Les & Shirley** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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While we did not have the opportunity to know Wayne Beck during his life, we have had the privilege of knowing his kids and their families. Through these relationships we can only glean what must have been an amazing man, one who instilled a great work ethic, loving hearts and strong sense of family in his children. Our hearts go out to the entire extended family, know you are and have been in our thoughts.

**The Flammer Family** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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Thirty years ago Dr. Beck saved my life and that of my baby. How can you ever express your gratitude for such a gift?

Over the years, I came to admire and respect Dr. Beck as a person as well as a physician. We talked about the farm life and our Labrador retrievers. And we reminisced about the day we met, of which he said, "Of all the deliveries--I remember that one like it was yesterday. There was another presence in the operating room. We all felt it."

God, guided his hands that day, and God guides him now, of that I have no doubt.

**Kathleen Ewing** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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I first met Dr. Beck when I was 12 years old. He was without a doubt, one of the finest doctors I have ever met. He turned what I thought would be a frightening experience, into a surprisingly simple procedure; sparing that young girl a lot of worries and anxiety. At the end of that visit, he gave me the biggest hug and promised me that everything would be alright. I was greeted with the same hug and genuine concern with each appointment. My deepest condolences go out to Wayne's family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Erin Ewing** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Thanks to you, Dr Beck and your family for sharing your talents, craft, science, generosity, hugs and encouragement. Your service to the Women of the Prescott Area and Bagdad is such a tribute to you and your unselfishness. May the Good Lord embrace you with tenderness. Your loving friend, Christi

**Christi Edwards** - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM