



VLADIMIR PETAR SHURLAN

8/24/1944 - 3/30/2021

Dr. Vladimir Petar Shurlan, son of Miroslava Stanojevic and Supreme Court Judge Petar Shurlan, died tragically on March 30, 2021, in Serbia, two and a half weeks after being diagnosed with Covid pneumonia. Born into the chaos of World War II, he died in the chaos of a worldwide pandemic.

While his family was hiding in the basement during the Nazi occupation of the former Yugoslavia, Vladimir was born August 24, 1944, in Negotin, Serbia. To keep from being discovered, his grandmother tore up her fine linens and shoved them into his mouth to stifle his cries. At the same time, the U.S. Army Corps was bombing Nazi oil reserves close to Negotin - and Vladimir's mother never forgot the sound of bombs as she gave birth, although she called them friendly US bombs since the Serbs and

Americans were Allies at that time. Major Robert Curtis, a decorated Ace and member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, was among those flying spitfires over Negotin and ironically with his wife Louise Curtis, became close friends with Vladimir and Lu in Lexington many years later.

Judge Shurlan escaped Nazi firing squads three times and the family estate was seized by the Nazi Regime for their headquarters, but the Shurlans survived and moved to Belgrade. There, Judge Shurlan served as a High Supreme Court Judge of Yugoslavia and Mira served as a devoted mother who attended the French Academy in Paris, loved opera, and was scheduled to study architecture, but whose plans were pre-empted by the War. Vladimir was chosen to attend the High Classic Greek and Latin School of Belgrade where he received a scholarly education, learned five

languages, majored in Biochemistry, and graduated with Honors. He then graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Belgrade where he received his M.D. in 1968.

After serving in the Yugoslav Army as a Lieutenant Surgeon, Vladimir emigrated to the U.S. in 1972 where he completed training as an Orthopedic Surgeon at Mass. General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School. He practiced at several hospitals in the Boston area, including Cambridge Hospital where he met Lu who was practicing as a Medical Social Worker. Vladimir also practiced in the Pittsburgh area and upon retirement, returned to his homeland in Serbia and lived until his death from Covid in March of 2021.

High-spirited and confident, he had an incredible sense of adventure. As a world traveler, he visited every continent, except Antarctica - and loved to regale his friends and family with stories of his travel adventures - his eyes flashing with excitement. Challenging conventional views boldly, he had a unique perspective on medicine and social issues that caused people to stop and think.

Vladimir will be remembered as a visionary and futurist - able to see future trends in medicine and society not apparent to most. Ahead of his time in understanding medicine and life in many different dimensions and time frames, he used his medical skills to help anyone in need and to provide care that was often beyond current understanding.

He leaves his beloved daughter, Danica Shurlan and his former wife Lu Shurlan, both of Lexington MA as well as his special cat, Sofia. Danica will always remember exploring his homeland of Serbia as well as Europe and accompanying him on many memorable adventurous trips to New York City, snowmobiling in New England and chasing the highest roller coasters in the Midwest. Vladimir dedicated his life to his daughter, his parents, his Serbian heritage, and excellence in the advancement of the practice of medicine.

Vladimir will be deeply missed by his daughter Danica - as well as by his family, friends, and colleagues around the world.

