



Omar Legant, M.D.

June 23, 1915 - January 6, 2014

born in 1915 in New York City of “poor but honest” Russian immigrant parents. Omar was a child actor on Broadway, graduate of NYC DeWitt Clinton Math and Science High School, a graduate of Columbia College (at age 19) and subsequently, Columbia’s medical school. He interned at Bellevue Hospital. The attack on Pearl Harbor brought him into the navy for the next 4 ½ years. For two years he sojourned with a defense battalion of the Marine Corps on Funafuti, an island in the South Pacific (you can look it up) acquiring an aversion to Spam and a liking for cigars. Following this illuminating experience, he spent three years as a resident in radiology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, terminating in his appointment to the full-time faculty. In 1949 Omar, his wife and two oldest children traveled out west in a black, two-door Chevrolet covered wagon to become the director of the St. Joseph’s Hospital X-Ray Department in Albuquerque, and remained identified with it for 35 years. He was a founding member of X-Ray Associates (now XRANM). When Omar retired after 35 years, XRANM comprised 23 board certified MD diagnostic radiologists. He was Chief of Staff at St. Joseph’s and held every elective office of the Medical Society at the county and state level. With Joe Garcia, the chief x-ray technician, Omar founded the St. Joseph Hospital School of X-Ray Technology, the first in the state of New Mexico. It was a two-year course which qualified the students to take and pass a national exam entitling him/her to be a Registered Technologist (RT). Omar was an insatiable reader, an avid fly fisherman, and will now rejoin his golfing

foursome of over fifty years: Dr. John Torrens, Mr. Stu Leigh, and Dr. Bill Kridelbaugh. With his passing, Omar can again join his wife, Jean, on the back porch to share a cigar and conversation. Omar was the husband of the late Jean Dalgety Legant, the brilliant and endearing partner in a sixty-three year marriage. Omar was especially proud of his wonderful family, the greater credit for which goes to his wife, Jean (Ph.D.). All the Legant children are hooked on higher education: Patricia (Ph.D., M.D.) (Husband Tom Parks); Paul (M.D.), (wife Kristin); Amy (Ed.D.) retired school principal; Ellen (B.A. Music Education and M.A. Performing Arts) music teacher. Omar is also survived by his 4 grandchildren: Andrew (wife Kim), Bradley (wife Cara), Wesley (wife Colette) and Anna; and by his 3 great-grandchildren Owen, Ethan and Evie. Omar requested no formal memorial service be held. He lives in our memories. In lieu of flowers, the family requests friends consider making donations to their favorite charities.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Legant Family.
Dr. Omar Legant was clearly one of the
"Greatest Generation."
With condolences, Remo & Margaret Gay



Remo & Margaret Gay - March 06, 2014 at 03:41 PM

JM

“ Dear

Julie Balduini Martin - January 20, 2014 at 08:24 PM

JM

“ Dear Ones,
So sorry for the loss of your dear father.
With deepest sympathy,
Julie Balduini Martin
(Las Vegas, NV)

Julie Balduini Martin - January 20, 2014 at 08:21 PM

JD

“My condolences to the family on the passing of Dr. Legant. I worked for him for nine years at his Encino office from 1974 to 1983. I had so much respect for him as a doctor and as a human being - he was the kindest physician I have EVER worked with, always more concerned about the patient than he was the almighty dollar, and that is a very rare quality in the medical field, I'm afraid. Such a nice man... I'm sure he will be missed.



Jan DeVine

Jan DeVine - January 13, 2014 at 12:53 PM

RS

“My brothers and I lived our early childhood down the street from the Legant family as we were good friends with Pat and Paul. I treasure those hours spent doing art projects in the Legant family room. They always had the best art supplies. I remember one day when Omar rushed out of the house to check my leg after I had been run over by my dog-pulled wagon. My parents, Mimi and Oscar Syme, were very long time friends of Jean and Omar after they met in the early days of their medical practices in NYC. My father and Omar were part of the "Old Man's" golfing foursome at Four Hills Country Club continuing playing long after they stopped keeping score. Our family will always be grateful for the kindness Omar showed my father taking him out to golf for the years my father was unable to drive.

Omar was a wonderful, kind, thoughtful man. He will be missed.

Roberta Syme and Jerry Rightman

Roberta Syme - January 12, 2014 at 12:43 PM

BB

“O” was a great man who had a wonderful life. I cherished our relationship when he was a client in the 80s and even more when he became a friend and we shared quarterly lunches for the last 25 years. Until the last four or five months he was vibrant and in tune with world events which he discussed regularly at his book club. While I rarely shared his political views he always had strong opinions and those helped him make sense of a world that changed radically from the one he experience as a youth in New York. As the years passed he was most proud of his family and especially the grandchildren.

Vaya con Dios, mi Amigo

Bruce Black

Bruce Black - January 11, 2014 at 12:07 PM

OB

“ I am forever grateful to Dr. Legant for accepting me into the x-ray program at St. Joseph School of Radiology in 1963. His leadership and encouragement had a great influence over me in my career as a Radiology Technician. My condolences go out to his family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Otis Brown - January 10, 2014 at 08:04 PM

CG

“ The Garcia family expresses our deepest condolences. Mr. Legant was very good to our brother Joe Garcia.

Celina Garcia - January 09, 2014 at 04:57 PM

JS

“ I was employed by Doctor Omar Legant in 1970 at La Mesa Medical Center. Doctor Omar Legant was an extraordinary individual; he always had time to discussed different subjects with you. He truly cared about his patients and employees, I will always remember the winter time when he would come to work with his stocking cap on inside out, and he would always say “tomorrow it would be on right way”. Doctor Omar Legant lived a full life and I will always have fond memories working for him.*****Words fall short of expressing my sorrow for your loss.***** Judy L. Smith



Judy L. Smith - January 09, 2014 at 02:17 PM

S(

“ Growing up one house down from Omar and his family certainly helped shape my life...I swear the reason I had my tonsils out was because Omar was always telling me "Suzie, get a kleenex" to silence my constant sniffing. My own father thought the sun rose and set in him, because Omar saved his life when I was very young. Dad was really sick and didn't know what was wrong. He asked Omar if he could order some chest x-rays for him, and he did. Omar took one look at the films and immediately admitted my dad to the hospital, telling him "one more day, Matt, and you wouldn't have made it". I was blessed to have both Omar, Jean and my best friend in the whole world, their daughter Amy. I am sure he and Jean and Dad are sharing a cigar and french champagne in heaven!!!



Suzie Mosby (Mattmiller) - January 07, 2014 at 03:35 PM

FF

“ On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.

FRENCH Funerals-Cremations - January 07, 2014 at 03:06 PM

RL

There are not enough words to express our thanks and gratitude for all that Dr. Legant gave to us. He freely gave of his wisdom, insight, compassion, intelligence and love for the field of radiology.

The mold was broken when he was born, for there is no other person that could fulfill his life-long quest of becoming the best radiologist of his time.

We will miss you, but you leave behind a legacy of commitment to believe in who you are and to always take pride in what you do.

Always with you in our hearts. Roy, Chris, Christy, Royina, Desi Lopez

Roy Lopez - January 09, 2014 at 11:34 PM

DH

I am filled with much love and fond memories of all my time spent with Omar, Jean and the rest of the Legant family. My thoughts are with you. Sincerely, Donna Holmlin (Shew)

Donna Holmlin - January 11, 2014 at 08:08 PM

MB

All honor and fond memories Omar - of you Jean and your wonderful family.

Mikell Becker

Mikell Becker - January 26, 2014 at 03:59 PM