



A Lahey Hospital & Medical Center Colleague Publication

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Remembering John J. Murray, MD

Peter W. Marcello, MD, Chair, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, had this to say:

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of one of Lahey's colon and rectal surgeons, John J. Murray, on Saturday, July 18, 2020.

John was born in March of 1951, and raised in Stoneham, graduating Stoneham High School in 1969. He spent his undergraduate years at Dartmouth College and then went to Boston University School of Medicine and completed his general surgical residency also at Boston University and Boston City Hospital. He completed his colorectal residency at Lahey in 1983, and after a brief tenure at the Fallon Clinic, was recruited back here to Lahey and served as senior staff surgeon and program director for the colon and rectal surgical residency. He was recruited to Dartmouth-Hitchcock to head up a new section of colon and rectal surgery in 2008 and finished his career there.



At Lahey, he was known to be a dedicated, compassionate caregiver who was meticulously focused on every facet of pre-op, intra-op and post-op care. He authored more than 60 peer reviewed manuscripts and 14 book chapters. He was a recognized expert on the surgical management of proximal intestinal Crohn's disease and fostered the development of the surgical technique of "on table colonic lavage." As with most Lahey surgeons, he taught innumerable medical students, general surgical residents, and colorectal residents the art of surgery and the fine details of patient care.

He was beloved by patients. The following are only a few of many accolades his patients wrote:

"This man was incredible. His skills save my wife's life. My family owes him so much."

"One of the top two doctors I've been blessed to know, both professionally and as caring humans I believe to this day that Dr. Murray has allowed me many more years of life (75 now) and I'll always be grateful for that."

"Bright---caring--a fine healing professional--skilled surgeon--JJ is the best!"

Outside of his vocational pursuits, John loved golfing, gardening, walking, and reading. He was also pursuing a hobby of oil painting. John was immensely fond of the ocean, spending his childhood summers at Humarock Beach in Scituate, and then at his home on Martha's Vineyard.

He was the beloved husband of Robin L. (Dutton) Murray, whom he met in 2003 and soon married. The two brought their families together, spending their early years in Chelmsford, followed by ten years in Norwich, VT, before finally making their home Andover in 2018.

In addition to his loving wife, John leaves his children: John Patrick Murray & his wife Brittney Brouse, Leslie Murray & her husband Dennis Vestwebber, Theodore Crane, Katharine Lai & her husband Steve, and Amy Heath

& her husband Andrew; and his cherished grandchildren, Abigail, Elisabeth, and Maia.

Following a fall and neck injury in October of 2018, he had a difficult final 21 months, spending his final days here at Lahey on 7 East, surrounded not only by his immediate family, but also his Lahey family of 7 East nurses and staff.

His funeral mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph Church, 173 Albion St., Wakefield on Thursday, July 23 at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

[Read his obituary.](#)



