



Dr. Louis Pierucci, Jr.

September 21, 1928 - December 20, 2024

Dr. Louis Pierucci, Jr. of Ponte Vedra, Fla., formerly of Altavista, Va., a noted cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at home surrounded by his loved ones. He was 96 years old. Dr. Pierucci was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, revered by family, friends and colleagues throughout his life. A devout Christian, he lived by the words of his Savior, "Thy will be done," a Bible verse he quoted often. He will be remembered for his devotion to family and friends, his sharp wit and humor, his wisdom, generosity, and kindness to all who knew him.

Dr. Pierucci was born in Philadelphia to parents Louis Sr. and Eleanor. He married Dona Miller in 1953. Their love, he often said, was deep and steadfast. Mrs. Pierucci died in 2019 after 67 years of marriage. They had six children, 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Dr. Pierucci was pre-deceased by his son, Louis Pierucci III, and his brother, Donal Pierucci.

In the 1950s, Dr. Pierucci was trained by Dr. John H. Gibbons, Jr., inventor of the heart-lung machine, and later joined Dr. Gibbons' practice. He performed pioneering, open-heart surgery and was the surgeon who retired the original heart-lung machine. Dr. Pierucci was the former Chief of Surgery at the

Cooper Hospital University Medical Center, Camden, N.J., and former Director of Vascular Surgery and Surgical Services at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and College, Philadelphia. He also practiced at West Jersey Hospital (now Virtua-West Jersey Health Systems), Marlton, N.J. He served as Attending Surgeon at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, Camden, N.J., and was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Toward the end of his surgical career, Dr. Pierucci specialized in vascular surgery. He was listed as one of the best vascular surgeons in the region in the September 1991 edition of Philadelphia Magazine.

He was a member of numerous medical societies, including the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, a Fellow with the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Camden County Medical Society, the Philadelphia College of Physicians, the Society for Vascular Surgery, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Pennsylvania Association for Thoracic Surgery, among others. He is the author of numerous medical papers published in periodicals and books throughout his medical career.

Dr. Pierucci was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving as a Captain on the surgery team at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

An avid hunter, Dr. Pierucci retired in 1993 and moved to Altavista, where he and his wife owned a large farm, River's Bend Farm (now Valor Farm), which operated as an equestrian center. He also bred and raised racehorses, with several of his horses competing on the track. Previously, he owned a swine breeding farm in Bedford, Pa.

In retirement, Dr. Pierucci was an active member of the Rotary Club of Altavista, serving as its president. He also served as an Adjunct Professor of

human anatomy and physiology at Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, VA.

Dr. Pierucci is survived by his children, Jill Bolakas and husband John, of Altavista, Va.; Patti Pierucci and husband Leonard Almond, of Forest, Va.; Jody Daniel of Jacksonville, Fla.; Beth Dikter and husband Harvey, of Ponte Vedra, Fla.; Peter Pierucci and wife Pati, of Willow Park, Texas; along with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held in Altavista. He will be laid to rest at Green Hill Cemetery, Altavista, alongside his wife.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly suggests making donations in honor of Lou Pierucci to the National Center for Healthy Veterans at P.O. Box 74, Altavista, VA 24517 (www.HealthyVeterans.org <<http://www.HealthyVeterans.org>>).

Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista, VA, is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

“Eulogies for Lou will undoubtedly contain innumerable praise for his professional achievements, accomplishments, pioneering work, leadership roles. Rightfully so. He deserves all these.

I was very fortunate to have had Lou as a teacher, a mentor, a very wise instructor. In the operating room what an experience it was to witness his mettle, one difficult case after another. His written hospital consultations were brief, with no elaborations, just incisive conclusions. It was so much fun scrubbing and learning in the operating room with a legend. Lou would provide sharp surgical insight into various surgical conditions often concluding with a pithy statement. Once, after a difficult case of a ruptured aortic aneurysm whose outcome was so tenuous that the patient’s recovery was almost a surprise, I asked him how he could foresee that surgery would work. In typical Pierucci fashion he said, almost offhandedly “you do the best you can (and he did the best) but the patient has to be lucky too”. The variety and intensity of the surgery we did those days provided many situations that lent ample fodder for such profound remarks. We called them Pieruccisms.

But this is not the side of Lou I loved the most. Beyond the OR was Lou with the wry wit, the storyteller of human tales. The food he enjoyed, the seven fishes of Christmas, the lard bread, his horses, his farm, stories about sitting out in the cold all day waiting for whatever he was hunting to come along, the hunting lodge with Vince, Donna, his children, the story of how he forced, I mean, convinced partners Dice and Vic to do his second heart surgery, speculations over the very secret work his daughter was engaged in for the military. Included in this collection of memorable nuggets was the day he decided to discharge himself from the hospital. But you can’t discharge yourself, the nurse pleadingly said. You are the patient, she pointed out. To which he retorted. I am admitted to the surgical service of which I am the head. So I can discharge myself. You’d think this kind of conversation only happens in Hollywood. Well Lou was up there when it came to incredible stories. Lou, to say the least was intense, in surgery for sure; in decision making, in and out of surgery. But sometimes and it’s almost a paradox for so decisive a surgeon, he’d say “If you wait long

enough, that problem will sort itself out". Ah, he wanted me to be patient. Ha ha. That's another Pieruccism, He wasn't mean about things, he just called them as he saw them. The honesty reverberates and resonates and you have to smile.

I saw Lou for the last time this last summer. He looked like the Lou I always knew. I could tell because he was still a storyteller. We reminisced about the "good old days" He told me that Vince would call him almost daily. He spoke about life in Florida. He told me stories about his early training as an intern, what he was allowed to operate on, how he learned to do prostatectomies(!!!) as early as then. Many things I didn't know about Lou, and the conversation was left open ended for the next time. That day too, as if to remind both us of how far we had gone in our lives, in their pool, my granddaughter had so much fun swimming with his great granddaughter, echoing the fun Lou and I had together.

Given our fun talk and excitement that day, I never considered that there would be no next time. I almost waited till next summer to visit him. If I did I would be regrettably singing the song lyric 'What I didn't do is done". Hey, that should have been a Pieruccism. Lou, I made the trip, even if it turned out to be the last. What a ride, sitting beside you.

Miguel de Leon, MD

MIGUEL DELEON - January 03, 2025 at 11:15 AM

HB

Dr. DeLeon, thank you so much for that beautiful tribute. It gave me a different and unique perspective of my dad. He was so fond of you. God bless, Patti Pierucci

HBDesquire - January 06, 2025 at 10:39 AM



Dr. de Leon, your tribute was so sweet. It brought tears and laughter. Thank you for honoring my dad. Jody (the one who never told the secrets).

Jody Daniel - January 07, 2025 at 04:04 PM

NH

“ *Natalie Harless purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Dr. Louis Pierucci,
Jr..*



Natalie Harless - January 01, 2025 at 06:40 PM

DF

“ *Dr. John and Karen Massaro and family
purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the
family of Dr. Louis Pierucci, Jr..*



Dr. John and Karen Massaro and family - December 30, 2024
at 12:17 PM



“ *A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Louis Pierucci, Jr..*

December 26, 2024 at 05:25 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Dr. Louis Pierucci, Jr..*



December 26, 2024 at 05:25 PM

LP

“ I will always remember him as compassionate, but realistic. Praying with me over numerous phone calls. He went out of his way to keep in touch with me and help me through the most difficult time of my life. I will miss him.

Linda Pierucci - December 22, 2024 at 08:41 PM

HB

Thanks Linda. He loved you very much.

HBDesquire - December 25, 2024 at 11:47 AM

LP

I loved him. I have so many memories of him. He even went out of his way to call me and offered comfort and prayers when my sister passed away, many years ago 2002.

Linda Pierucci - December 27, 2024 at 07:45 PM

SJ

“ Master chef with his sous chefs at working during our annual Feast of the Seven Fishes



Sophia Johnson - December 22, 2024 at 03:17 PM

MJ

“ One of the many typical family meals we enjoyed as a family. This was when Patti and Leonard, my parents, and the kids and I all still lived on the farm with Nammy and PopPop.



Mia Jewell - December 22, 2024 at 10:56 AM

MJ

“ Sophie and PopPop dancing. 💕😊



Mia Jewell - December 22, 2024 at 10:53 AM

MJ

“ Living on the farm and beside Nammy and PopPop for several years is a highlight of my early adulthood. Emma and Jason were able to see them almost daily and I'm so thankful that they had the opportunity to know their great grandparents. This was Halloween 2011. The kids were dressed as Minnie and Micky Mouse and PopPop was dancing with Emma while Nammy held Jason. 💕



Mia Jewell - December 22, 2024 at 10:52 AM

MJ

“ PopPop and Emma on his 88th birthday.



Mia Jewell - December 22, 2024 at 10:49 AM

HB

“ 1 file added to the album Lou Pierucci



HBDesquire - December 22, 2024 at 06:50 AM

HB

Lou dancing with Ellie

HBDesquire - December 22, 2024 at 11:58 AM

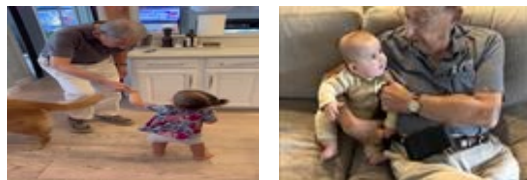
LP

Such a beautiful memory.

Linda Pierucci - December 22, 2024 at 11:36 PM

HA

“ Pop pop dancing



Harvey - December 22, 2024 at 06:19 AM

LM

“ So sorry to see this loved Dr Pierucci whe he was here in the Rotary Club prayers and hugs sent to all his family 🙏🙏❤️❤️



Lucinda Mattox - December 21, 2024 at 04:43 PM

HB

Thank you Lucinda.

HBDesquire - December 22, 2024 at 07:02 PM

HB

“ 11 files added to the album Lou Pierucci



HBDesquire - December 21, 2024 at 03:06 PM