



Richard Neubauer, Pompano Beach Doctor, Dies at 83: He Founded Hyperbaric Center in Fort Lauderdale

By Joel Marino, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Jun. 21--Dr. Richard Neubauer's philosophy was simple -- all patients deserve respect, no matter their conditions.

Dr. Neubauer died June 11 in his Pompano Beach home after suffering allergic reactions to medication. He was 83.

"He treated every single patient he ever received with kindness and dignity. He was the embodiment of the warm, old-fashioned doctor, and his patients adored him for that," said Virginia "Ginger" Neubauer Reilly, his daughter.

Dr. Neubauer was an early proponent of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, the medical use of oxygen at high pressure to treat various forms of brain damage, including trauma caused by accidents, drowning and strokes.

But Dr. Neubauer made sure that a warm attitude contributed to his patient's recuperation as much as the treatment.

"He always talked straight to the patient, even if they couldn't respond," Reilly said.

Dr. Neubauer was born in Wilmington, Del. He founded the Fort Lauderdale Oceanic Hyperbaric Neurologic Center in 1972.

Though he traveled the world lecturing on the benefits of oxygen treatment, he still took time off for his family, especially outings to the beach.

"We'd go every afternoon, and he would always tell us whether it was going to be a clear day or a rainy day. It was such a sight, how he could predict the weather like that," Reilly said.

Dr. Neubauer also enjoyed classical music. He played the oboe and sat with the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra when he was a teenager.

"He was a man of so much depth and talent," said Lisa Braker, a medical assistant at the Ocean Center. "But he was also very generous. If he could give everybody free treatments, he probably would."

Besides his daughter Virginia, Dr. Neubauer is survived by Winnie Neubauer, his wife of 61 years; his children: Richard Allen Jr., David and Marion Elizabeth Neubauer, as well as two grandchildren, Rebecca Lynne Neubauer and Robert Martin Neubauer.

There will be a small celebration of life ceremony at the Ocean Center today from 5 to 7 p.m. The family is planning to hold a larger ceremony in a few months to include colleagues and friends from around the world.