

## JOHN MCKENZIE



JOHN KIRK MCKENZIE June 12, 1932 - January 15, 2016 John, beloved husband of Irene, died peacefully with family around him, at the age of 83 at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. John was predeceased by his parents, Kit and Jack McKenzie; brother David; sister-in-law Pat; brother-in-law Lyn; and grandson Scott. He is survived by Irene, his loving wife of 59 years; daughters, Ann (Chuck), Lesley (Brian) and Alison (Chantal); sons Robert (Melanie) and John; goddaughters, Patti and Lisa; grandchildren, Maia (Geordie and great-grandsons, Theo and Jasper), David (Judith), Brittany, Paul, and Liana, siblings Mary and Jim; sister-in-law Myra (Perce); as well as many family members overseas. John will also be missed by many friends, colleagues, patients and students. John was born in Hong Kong to New Zealand (NZ) Presbyterian missionary parents. The family moved back to New Zealand three years later. His family lived in various parts of New Zealand, with much of John's schooling in Wellington and Dunedin. John met Irene in the summer of 1952 when they were working and climbing in the Southern Alps. He graduated from Otago University Medical School in 1956 and Irene and John were married in December that year. They worked for three years in the North Island where Ann was born. Lesley and Alison were born in Dunedin where John completed his residency in Internal Medicine in 1963. He received a Nuffield Research Fellowship and the family moved to Oxford, UK for three years, where he pursued research involving the kidney enzyme renin. The family returned to Dunedin where John continued his research at the Wellcome Institute along with clinical work until 1969, when they moved to Canada. John participated in research, teaching and clinical work involving kidney disease and high blood pressure for many years at the University of Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Through his clinical work he developed a passion for bioethics and helped to establish the bioethics program at the Faculty of Medicine. Irene worked with John in his research lab from 1978 until her retirement. John published numerous papers in several fields of medicine. He was well known for his innovative approaches, such as training nurse practitioners for his hypertension clinic in the early 1980's. John will be remembered by patients and colleagues as a kind, compassionate and dedicated physician. John's many interests included rugby (playing and coaching), mountain climbing, running, and later in life, golf. He enjoyed outdoor activities and spent many weekends and holidays with his family hiking, canoeing, swimming, sailing and cross-country skiing. Irene and John's island cottage at Minaki, Ontario was a favourite place for family and many friends. They enjoyed travel, including winter holidays on Kauai. John was generous and hospitable and volunteered with countless organizations, including the Kidney Foundation, Physicians for Social Responsibility and committees of the United Church. There was always an extra place at the table, and an extra bed at home or cottage. John loved to sing, adding his bass voice to many

choirs throughout his life, most recently the Bison Men's Chorus. The family often sang together on road or canoe trips. John loved to cook and enjoyed sharing meals with family and friends. John was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a respected physician, researcher, medical teacher and community activist. He will be greatly missed. Special thanks to the staff of the Prime program at Misericordia Hospital (especially Anna Cotroneo), Action Marguerite PCH (especially Paul and Tessa), wards H7 and D4 at HSC, and to Drs. Brian Penner and Sheila Domke. Special thanks also to The Alzheimer Society Manitoba and to the leaders and participants in the Thursday morning Alzheimer's Support Group, as well as to the many dedicated staff of Home Instead. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, 10-120 Donald St., Winnipeg, MB, R3C 9Z9, or to an organization of your choice. Memorial service and reception will be held at Neil Bardal Funeral Centre, 3030 Notre Dame Ave. across from Brookside Cemetery, on Wednesday, January 20 at 1:00 p.m. NEIL BARDAL FUNERAL CENTRE 204-949-2200 [neilbardalinc.com](http://neilbardalinc.com)