



John Elliot Bassett

Bassett, John Elliot age 74, died on June 16, 2019. John was born October 22, 1944 in Elmira, NY to Thomas Day Seymour Bassett and Patricia Reynolds Bassett. A graduate of Harvard University ('66), he received medical training at the University of Vermont and the University of Iowa. John worked for almost 50 years as a cardiologist and physician, caring deeply for his patients, and particularly enjoyed teaching and advising medical students and young doctors. He was an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Minnesota Chorale with whom he sang as a bass for 34 years. From a young age, John loved traveling and engaging with other cultures. He lived in France for a year as an exchange student ('61-'62), served in the Peace Corps in Morocco ('66-'68), worked briefly in Saudi Arabia ('83), and traveled widely with his family, from Indonesia to Guatemala to Ethiopia. Passionate about nature and animals, John loved hiking, camping, canoeing and kayaking, was an avid birder since his teen years, and appreciated tasteful taxidermy. He equally relished books and movies, and had a profound love of music with an eclectic taste that ranged from classical to folk, Cyndi Lauper, blues and jazz, to Macklemore shared with his grandkids. His friends and family will especially remember his unique and goofy sense of humor. John had a quiet but powerful commitment to the betterment of the world, educating himself about others' life experiences and donating generously to environmental and social causes. A perpetual extrovert, John loved connecting with friends and strangers alike, with particular presence and generosity of spirit in his last 3 months. He touched many and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Julie Stewart; daughters, Lucy Bassett (Alex Taurel) and Margot Bassett Silver (Stowe Silver); grandchildren, Beacon, Eleanor, and Silas Bassett-Taurel and Oona Silver; sisters, Lisa Bassett and Marty French; exchange student, Wina Winoto; and former wife, Caroline Bassett. A memorial will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis (900 Mount Curve Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403) on July 13 at 2pm. Donations on his behalf can be made to the PKD Foundation or the Minnesota Chorale.

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