



Dr. David Lalonde Knox

September 3, 1930 - February 1, 2022

David Lalonde Knox, a longtime ophthalmologist at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully in his north Baltimore home on February 1, 2022. He was 91.

He was born in Chicago in 1930, an only child to Harry Jobes Knox and Grace Lalonde Knox. He was raised by his mother, a social worker, and her parents, moving to Houston at age 10. He attended Lamar High School, Rice University for premed, and Baylor University for his medical degree.

Dr. Knox first came to Johns Hopkins as an intern in 1955, and then spent two years as an Army physician in Korea. He returned to Hopkins for his ophthalmology residency, and then concluded with a fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. He specialized in neuro-ophthalmology and uveitis. He had a particular interest in diagnosing difficult uveitis cases, and patients came from around the world to seek his opinion.

He had a deep love for Johns Hopkins and patient care, and practiced full time until the ripe age of 84. He continued to conduct research and attend department conferences until his final days. In the 1970s he served on the Medical School Admissions Committee, culminating in a 3 year term as Dean of Admissions. He was proudest of his involvement with the Frank B. Walsh Society, an annual neuro-ophthalmology meeting that he helped grow in size and stature from humble beginnings in the 1960s.

His Wilmer colleague and friend Dr. Peter Gehlbach recalled Dr. Knox as a gentleman with astonishing energy, prying curiosity, and an encyclopedic recall of patient details. “David delighted in the traditional doctor-patient relationship. He was an astute diagnostician, avid patient advocate, and constant supporter of new approaches to care.” Following his retirement, Dr. Knox’s patients would visit and recall having been treated by him—some many decades prior. He was always appreciated, respected, and held in the highest regard.

His son Benjamin Knox, an orthopedic spine surgeon, noted “Medicine was his mistress, but he was completely uncorrupted by careerism, research dollars, or Big Pharma influences. His honesty and dedication were an inspiration to me and many other aspiring physicians.”

He married Linda Denny of Indianapolis and later Pasadena in 1958, and they had three children. An avid tennis player, he belonged to the L’Hirondelle Club for over 50 years. He also had a great love of antique British cars, growing roses, and reading. He is survived by his children, Dr. Benjamin Knox, of Johnson City TN, Mary Elspeth Knox of New York NY, and Lucinda Knox Herron of Brooklyn NY, and his grandchildren Micah Herron, Genevieve Herron, Abigail Knox, and Alexandra Knox.

On February 1, 2022 Dr. David Lalonde Knox, beloved father of Benjamin D. Knox (Lisa), Mary Elspeth Knox, Lucinda Knox (Jon Herron); dear grandfather of Abigail and Alexandra Knox and Micah and Genevieve Herron, and former husband of Linda Denny Knox.

A Memorial Gathering will be held at L’Hirondelle Club on Saturday March 26, at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to The Wilmer Eye Institute or The North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

L'Hirondelle Club
7611 L'Hirondelle Club Rd.
Towson, MD 21204

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Dr. Knox was a true gentleman and brilliant doctor. I have had severe nearsightedness since birth. When a multitude of doctors could not help me, I was referred to Dr. Knox who explained my situation in terms I could understand and relieved my fears for my continued loss of vision. After extensive tests and visits during my lifetime to other doctors, Dr. Knox diagnosed my situation and recommended that I return to "old school" techniques. This was such a relief to me and I will be forever grateful. He explained my severe uncontrollable migraines and advised me that my situation wasn't hopeless, as I was told by other doctors. Dr. Knox was a wealth of knowledge, and I am so fortunate that I was his patient. My condolences to everyone he met because he treated everyone with kindness, respect, and hope. Joyce Scarcella

Joyce Scarcella - February 09, 2022 at 08:58 AM

HM

My great professor, sorry to hear that, many things I learnt from him at JHH,

Hossein Ghafourian, MD - October 12, 2025 at 04:40 PM