



## Dr. E.F. Shaw Wilgis

December 17, 1936 - February 2, 2025

Dr. Edward Ford Shaw Wilgis, 88, passed away peacefully at his home in The Blakehurst

Retirement Community on February 2, 2025. He was born December 17, 1936 in Baltimore, to

the late Dr. Herbert E. Wilgis and Margaret S. Wilgis. He was one of four children, Herbert,

Jane, and Peggy all deceased.

Shaw attended The McDonogh School, followed by Princeton University for undergraduate. He

earned an MD at the University of Maryland Medical School in 1962. In 1967 Shaw studied

under Dr. Guy Pulvertaft for a hand fellowship in Great Britain.

Returning to the states, Shaw joined Finney, Trimble & Associates. During 1975 Shaw was one

of the founding members of the Curtis National Hand Center at Union Memorial Hospital

followed by Greater Chesapeake Hand Specialist.

Shaw retired from private practice and UMH in 1999. Not sitting still Shaw joined the board of

Helix, the parent corporation of UMH and started the Research Center for the Curtis National

Hand Center. Helix merged with Mid-Atlantic to form what is now MedStar

Health System. From 2006-2009 Shaw was the Chairman of MedStar. In 2009 he transferred to become Chairman of the MedStar Research Institute, retiring for the final time in 2011. The International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand awarded Shaw the Pioneer of Hand Surgery Award in 2010 for his advancements in microsurgery procedures of hand reconstruction.

Shaw loved their home in Henlopen Acres, Del. which became a gathering spot for friends and family. He enjoyed spending time on the water, becoming an avid water skier at the age of 45.

Shaw also enjoyed biking with colleagues, snow skiing, playing golf, and cards with friends over the years. He was an avid sports fan watching his beloved Ravens and Orioles any chance he got.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy, of 62 years, and three children. Randolph Shaw Wilgis (Mary) of Camden, SC., Edward Ford Wilgis (Beth) of White Stone, VA., and Elizabeth Claire Gonder (Tim) of Timonium, MD. Along with seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Shaw was a devoted husband, father, and Papa Shaw. He was known for his kindness, generosity and joyful spirit which made him many dear friends far and wide. Visiting hours will be held from 3-6 p.m. February 14th at Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home, 6500 York Rd. Baltimore. Services will be 12:00 noon. Saturday February 15th, at Saint Ignatius

Church, 740 N. Calvert St. Baltimore, Md. 21202. The service will be  
Livestreamed at <https://st-ignatius.net/livestream-1>. Reception to follow at  
Elkridge Country Club

6100 N. Charles St. Baltimore, Md. 21212.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Curtis National Hand Center at  
MedStar Union

Memorial Hospital [www.curtishand.com](http://www.curtishand.com) or The Blakehurst Residents'  
Scholarship Foundation 1055 West Joppa Road Towson, Md. 21204.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **14**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.  
6500 York Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
(410) 377-8300  
general@mwfuneralhome.com

## Memorial Mass

FEB **15**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius  
740 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

# Tribute Wall

EH

“ Dear Betsy & family, my Condolences to each of you. Betsy there are so many fond (and fun) memories of Shaw. He certainly kept UMH alive! I don't always remember much these days, but I do remember your wedding and friendship. May GOD continue to Bless you! Edie (Dillow) Hoffheiser (Class of 1962)

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**Edie Hoffheiser** - March 05, 2025 at 01:31 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Dr. Wilgis



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**Matt McWright** - February 16, 2025 at 11:39 AM

MM

“ Betsy, Randy, Ford & Claire, I'm so incredibly sad to read about "Doc's" passing. What a great and remarkable and kind human being he was. I feel incredibly lucky to have spent the time around Doc that I did, including and especially in Rehoboth, where your home became my second home there. My whole family grieves at this loss, and we send you all our love and condolences and hugs. Thanks for opening some doors for me, Doc, and glad those big red skis worked out for you!

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**Matt McWright** - February 16, 2025 at 10:52 AM

MI

“ I don't think anything was mentioned yet about Shaw's fabulous cookies! They were the most delicious and very thin and crispy. I hope Shaw is making them in Heaven for my Tom! You will be so very missed, Shaw Wilgis, by me and all who knew and loved you.  
Mollie

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**mollie ingram** - February 12, 2025 at 01:06 PM

LT

*Shaw has been an invaluable mentor to countless hand surgeons and hand therapists, inspiring many to pursue continuous learning and professional growth. His commitment to advancing the treatment of hand injuries and disorders has left a lasting legacy in our field. Regularly visiting our office, Shaw encouraged us to document the protocols and techniques we used in rehabilitating patients. This initiative led to the creation of a highly respected book that has served as a vital resource for therapists around the world.*

*Thank you, Dr. Wilgis, for your dedication to excellence. Thank you for your guidance and encouragement in your leadership you helped shape my professional journeys.*

*Respectfully,  
Lorie Theisen (hand/occupational therapist)*

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**Lorie Theisen** - February 13, 2025 at 08:52 AM

RS

*Lorie has beautifully summarized Shaw's legacy to the hand and upper extremity rehabilitation community, nationally and internationally. He was a great leader, surgeon and mentor. He will be missed by many.*

*With gratitude,  
Rebecca Saunders, PT/CHT*

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**Rebecca Saunders** - February 13, 2025 at 06:02 PM

KB

*A giant among men, a dedicated teacher and mentor, and a visionary in the field of hand surgery, Shaw left an indelible mark on all of us fortunate enough to have trained with him, worked with him, and been cared for by him. In my own career there were countless times I recalled pearls of wisdom handed down by Shaw in the OR and clinic, and I could often hear his distinctive voice in my head as I remembered them. He made us all better for having known him. His was a life truly well lived.*

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**Kyle Bickel** - February 15, 2025 at 09:01 PM