

It was my privilege and joy to be Michael's physician for over a decade. He brought a smile and positive outlook to every visit, regaling me with stories of his dancing events and biking adventures even when most people with his list of problems would find it hard to walk across the street. Michael mastered the ability to find happiness and peace in a world where life is not fair. His legendary good luck to me was in reality the result of his incredibly hopeful attitude paired with his openness and generosity of spirit. What an amazing talent and beautiful soul!

On my 61st birthday, Michael arrived with the most special gift I have ever received from a patient – a necklace and pair of earrings which he had made from dice. One was drilled with six holes, and the other with one hole – to make the number "61", but together to make the lucky number seven. He had drilled and filled the holes himself, and had a friend assemble the pieces. He told me that he did this because he felt lucky to have me as his physician. It is a perfect example of Michael – a thoughtful gift full of fun and a bit irreverent, with a noble heart. Truly, I am the lucky one!

Michael, May your memory be eternal*

Cathy Creticos

*this is a blessing we say in my religion, Greek Orthodox Christian

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photo of Michael's gift to Dr. Creticos added below on Page 2

