MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

A memorial tribute to Steve Carter

Gregory S. Thomas, MD, MPH^{a,b}

On September 20, 2010 ASNC lost Steve Carter, our beloved CEO. He died at the age of 61 following a short bout with cancer. Steve led ASNC since April 2001. A modest, self effacing man, he was a leader among leaders, allowing others the limelight while cajoling, encouraging, and shepherding from behind the scenes. Steve was a role model as a man, a leader and a visionary.

He touched many during his too short life, including many ASNC leaders.

Robert Hendel, MD, FASNC. “We have all lost a leader, a friend, and a truly great person. He touched all of us with his sensitivity, positive approach, and genuine concern for all. Not only was he great for ASNC, but he cared about each of us and our successes.”

Kim A Williams, MD, Sr., FASNC. “Steve was the right man in the right place and took ASNC and nuclear cardiology to levels none of us thought possible. He will certainly be missed and can’t be replaced, but he certainly lives on through his ASNC legacy and the life lessons he taught us all.”

Ami Iskandrian, MD, FASNC. “A giant amongst giants. He will be missed. I will miss him.”

Jeff Leppo, MD, FASNC. “Steve was able to provide others the limelight without seeking fanfare or even recognition for his own contribution to mutual accomplishments. He was so adept at this often not even a footprint of his own efforts could be found.”

Rob Beanlands, MD, FRCPC. “The world has lost one of its most dedicated and positive individuals. It will be a tough void to fill.”

Jerry Olszewski. “As someone from industry who had the privilege to work with Steve, I always relished the fact that Steve considered his industry colleagues as true partners in the delivery of world class cardiac care. I will miss his “gentle mentoring” that lead me to reflect on the results of decision making—before and after the fact—to make course corrections if needed. He has made a difference in my life and all of those who knew him.”

Randy Thompson, MD, FASNC. “Steve was a great friend to so many of us. It’s hard to imagine ASNC without him.”

Frans Wackers, MD, PhD, FASNC. “Steve put his mark on ASNC for years to come.”

Patty Reames, CNMT, FASNC. “Steve certainly had a positive impact on my life as well as so many others. Steve was such a believer in all of us and he inspired me to be a better person and a better professional. He was truly a teacher and a leader.”

Myron Gerson, MD, FASNC. “We have all lost a dear friend. Steve had an amazing talent for bringing out the best in us as individuals and the best in ASNC as a Society.”

Christopher Hansen, MD, FASNC. We have lost a great friend, a dear colleague and a great director.”

Leslee Shaw, PhD, FASNC. “Steve will be missed tremendously by many. He led without being in front. He had a vision while fostering others to develop this insight. And, he had a way of bringing about consensus and the best in people; especially in difficult times. He left this world, our world, a much better place. ASNC owes a tremendous debt to him, his value to what we are today is immeasurable.”

Mylan Cohen, MD, MPH, FASNC. “Steve was a man of grace and vision. He dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the success of ASNC, and he encouraged every member to work for the greater good of our field and our patients. He was a role model in diplomacy, ingenuity, and humility. He radiated warmth and brought out the best in each of us. I will personally miss him but know, by his example and advice, that he will always be with me.”

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Tim Bateman, MD, FASNC. "He helped to define a path through life that many of us can only hope to emulate."

George Beller, MD, FASNC. "Steve showed how high professionalism and great dedication to excellence in a leadership position can be manifested together with warmth, grace, and modesty. He was a wonderful friend and tireless supporter of the JNC."

Following his death, Steve's wife Catherine reflected on Steve's great love for ASNC. ASNC loved him in return. The physician leadership loved him as did his professional staff in Bethesda, Maryland. A consummate gentleman, Steve greeted everyone with a smile, saw the bright side of people and things and drew the best out of those around him. He brought disparate ideas and people together and sought to develop consensus when it did not seem possible. He led the nuclear cardiology community during both heady and challenging times with aplomb. He will be dearly missed.

He was born Steven David Carter on December 29, 1948 in Kansas City, Missouri and grew up in the small town of Holton, Kansas. While in college Steve enlisted in the US Naval Reserve, serving from 1969-1974. He was active duty in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Presaging later service to medicine, Steve was honored with the Bronze Star for bravery, acts of merit, and meritorious service.

He met Catherine (Cathy) Lee Crice in October 1972 while both were working on a political campaign. Cathy describes it as love at first sight for each of them. They were engaged in April the following year and married in Topeka, Kansas 3 months later on July 7.

Steve graduated from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas with a BA in 1975 and from the University of Kansas with an MPA in 1977. He then began his career as the Administrative Aide to the Speaker of the Legislature for the state of Kansas. This was followed by Executive Directorships of the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Kansas Medical Society and the Minnesota Medical Society. Following this he was the Vice President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology prior to being recruited to become the Executive Director of ASNC.

In addition to his wife Cathy, survivors include his parents, Lewis and Jeane Carter, who still reside in Holton, Kansas, his two brothers, John Carter of Tucson, Arizona and Blaine Carter of Lake Wabaunsee, Kansas and his four nieces. Interment will be at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

In lieu of flowers, Cathy has asked that donations be sent to the Nuclear Cardiology Foundation in Steve's honor. http://www.asnc.org/content_10406.cfm.