

John Morrison Veitch died peacefully at his home on January 18, 2015 after a brief battle with brain cancer, surrounded by loving family. John was 69 years old.

John Veitch was the middle of five children born to Abner and Bessie Veitch. He was raised in Lisbon, North Dakota. His father, Abner, was a country doctor who had a clinic and surgery suite in the front of their home.

John attended the University of North Dakota for three years before going on to UND's medical school. He and his brother Bob were in the same medical school class. After the first two years completing the classroom work, John went to the University of Minnesota for his third and fourth years of medical school where he met Mary Ellen; they fell in love and married the day after he graduated from medical school. They were married for 44 years.

John did his surgery internship in Indianapolis and Mary Ellen and he welcomed their son Andrew (Andy) into the world. After completion of this internship, Dr. Veitch began his public service obligation with the US Army as a Chief Medical Officer. He was stationed for two years at Fort Greeley in Alaska and one year at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. They welcomed their second son, Charles (Charlie), while in Alaska. John Veitch was honorably discharged as a Major after three years of service.

John underwent his orthopaedic training at the University of New Mexico from 1974 to 1978 under Dr George Omer. HE also completed a hand fellowship under the direction of Dr. Omer. Initially, John and Mary Ellen moved the young family to Fort Dodge, Iowa and began work as a solo practitioner. But not surprisingly, New Mexico called them back to the Land of Enchantment and they jumped at an opportunity to start a practice with Dr Stan Lehman in Roswell, New Mexico. John worked for 13 years as a general orthopaedic surgeon in Roswell as well as raising his two boys in southern New Mexico with Mary Ellen.

After both Andy and Charlie graduated from Goddard High School in Roswell, John and Mary Ellen moved to Joplin, Missouri after an opportunity presented for him to be primarily a hand surgeon, hand surgery being his true passion in orthopaedics. John had a busy practice in Joplin for 10 years. John tried his hand at retirement, but was bored and UNM Orthopaedics got lucky. John accepted a position at UNM as a part-time faculty member in the division of Hand Surgery working for UNM Orthopaedics for 7 years before retiring in 2010, this time sans boredom. John Veitch was an outstanding teacher and won the UNM Orthopaedics Faculty Instructor of the Year award in 2004-2005. He was an active member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Association of Hand Surgery.

Outside of orthopaedics, John loved spending time with his family, hiking and hunting in New Mexico, was an avid reader (especially biographies), loved to study foreign languages, and of course was a big Lobo sports fan.

John is survived by his loving wife, Mary Ellen, son, Andrew (UNM Orthopaedics class of 2003) and Andy's wife, Beth, son, Charles, three brothers, Tom, Bob, Jim,

sister, Marge, and two grand-daughters, Ellie and Emma. He would have been 70 years old on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We will miss him dearly.