



Dr. F. Peter Rentz

August 22, 1942 - July 17, 2025

Dr. F. Peter Rentz of Pittsfield passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 17th, 2025, just two months after losing his beloved wife, Mary Leath Rentz. Born in Lima, Ohio, on August 22, 1942, the eldest son of the late Frederick W. Rentz and G. Pauline Schlegel Rentz, he graduated from Lima Senior High School in 1960 and from Miami University in 1964. He met Mary at Pilgrim Hills UCC Camp, where he was a lifeguard and she was a counselor. They married on August 20th, 1966 and moved to Evanston, IL where Pete graduated from Northwestern University Medical School. Pete began work as physician, serving as an officer in the US Navy as part of the UDT-SEALs on a nuclear submarine, and later specializing in Radiology as a civilian in Cleveland and Boston before settling his family in Pittsfield in 1976.

Pete's keen intellect, curiosity and community-oriented spirit led him to join many activities in Berkshire County, especially focusing on faith, the outdoors, trains and supporting youth and families. He served on numerous committees at South Congregational Church (now UCC, Pittsfield), participating in the Men's Forum, leading the high school youth group, occasionally lending his bass voice to the choir and cooking meals at St. Joe's Kitchen. Pete was stalwart member of the Pittsfield YMCA and served on its board of directors. An avid hiker and cyclist, Pete enjoyed competing in the Josh Billings Run-Aground triathlon for many years with his colleagues from Berkshire Radiological Associates and served happily on the Appalachian Trail

Conservancy as a volunteer trail maintainer and caretaker at Upper Goose Pond Cabin (AMC). A train buff since his youth in Lima, Pete was thrilled to work on the Berkshire Scenic Railway in his early retirement.

Throughout his 27-year medical career he mentored other physicians as Attending Radiologist at BMC of University of Massachusetts Medical School. In the late 1970's he embraced emergent imaging technologies, and was instrumental in bringing the first CT scanner to Berkshire County. He also developed angioplasty and created the first mechanical angiographic stepping table at BMC.

Pete's family and friends enjoyed his subversively jovial sense of humor, whether he was hiking with the Monday Mountain Boys or regaling the cousins with stories at frequent family reunions. Pete was a study in delightfully enigmatic contrasts: a serious intellectual who loved absurdist humor, a dedicated scientist who also had deep faith and artistic talent, an outdoorsman who knew how to do or make practically anything and a mentor who wanted to teach others everything he knew. His generous, indomitable spirit and endless personal grit made him a unique, irreplaceable human who will be truly missed by the many who knew and loved him.

Peter was predeceased by his dear parents and his wonderful wife of 58 years, Mary. He is survived by his beloved siblings, Susan Rentz Flickinger and Dr. David J. Rentz, his two loving daughters, Deborah Rentz-Moore (married to John Moore) of Durham, NH and Sarah Rentz (partnered with Robert Vinas, Jr.) of Wesley Hills, NY, as well as three cherished grandsons: Gibson and Garrett Moore and Avery Vinas.

A musical service giving thanks for Peter and Mary Rentz's lives will take place on August 16th, 1 PM at UCC, Pittsfield, 110 South St, Pittsfield MA 01201

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

South Congregational Church
110 South St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. F. Peter Rentz.*



August 08, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. F. Peter Rentz.

August 08, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *As a fellow member of the Monday Mountain Boys would always like to hike with Peter because you always learned something about the trail and the surroundings like "always walk on the planks to avoid erosion". When I last visited him at Berkshire Place he introduced me to his fellow residents as a member of MMB. Will be missed.*

Also remember your mom at the CSA pickups at Hancock SHaker Village and occasionally at the South Street food pantry. Her smile will too be missed

Marty Schwartz

martin schwartz - July 23, 2025 at 03:34 PM

KR

“ Sarah and Debbie--I'm so sad to hear of your dad's passing. It's been a long time since we lived in the Dawes Ave area neighborhood. But I remember he was always pleasant and kind--and on his bike! Both of your parents seemed to have endless patience and knowledge--with an enthusiasm for life and service to others we all should aspire to. Please take care
--Kristen Gleason

Kristen - July 22, 2025 at 07:15 PM

ET

“ Pete taught me how to approach a problem with curiosity, not pre-determined defeat. From sawing and chopping wood, to safely navigating roadways as a Cyclist, to lighting a fire, identifying poison ivy, survival skills at Camp Marion White like cooking on a campfire, clearing nature paths.... I could go on and on. I will miss his jovial spirit and gregarious laughter deeply. Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor - July 19, 2025 at 03:54 PM

GC

“ Dear family I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom and dad are reunited in heaven. I am sure they are watching over you!

Gary Clarkson - July 19, 2025 at 12:50 PM

MP

“ We offer sympathy to the Rentz family especially now losing first Mary, then Pete in close proximity. As Lima, Ohio, next door neighbors we shared a lot of local places where kids could play outside.

Pete was the oldest kid on the block and headed to college and med school which made his parents proud.

As time passed and Mary became one of the "gang." We shared wonderful reunion times through the years. Pete and Mary were both one of a kind very special dedicated people to their work, family and their passions. Rest in peace together again. You are missed.

Mila Pierce - July 19, 2025 at 12:35 PM

PE

“ *Rentz family, Deb & Sarah:
So sorry to read of your father's passing. He will missed. I remember his & Mary when I was in choir. They were the very active in the church.
You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Paula Esposito - July 19, 2025 at 11:44 AM