



## Dr. Joseph A. Wertz

July 18, 1962 - July 14, 2021

Dr. Joseph Arthur Wertz, age 58, of Kankakee passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at the University of Chicago Hospital. He was born July 18, 1962 in Kankakee, the son of the late Dr. Robert Arthur & Eleanor Jo (Hensley) Wertz.

Dr. Wertz was a community dentist for 31 years. He combined quality of care, a caring atmosphere, and a pleasant, professional, treasured long time work family. He deeply loved his family and friends and had a passion for helping his patients in the community.

He graduated from Bishop McNamara Catholic High School and received degrees from SMU and Loyola University. He was a longtime member of the Kankakee Country Club. He was an avid golfer and was a two-time champion of the Rollison Tournament at the Kankakee Country Club. He was a lover of nature, and a sports enthusiast.

Joe was a three-time past president of the Kankakee Dental Society and was also past president for the Rotary Club, and Salvation Army. He was also a past board member of the Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce.

He was a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee.

Surviving are his daughter, Faith Wertz and her mother, Sheree Wertz; his partner, Deia Beckman; one sister and brother-in-law, Carrie Wertz Sloan & Stephen D. Sloan and their children, Brian (Erica), Stevie, and Catherine; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Stephen Wertz and Dr. David & Hope Wertz and their children, Abby and Ivy; one sister-in-law, Kate Wertz and her son,

Patrick & Jacque and their two sons, Kaiden and Cannon; his work family, Kathy Sievers, Deia Beckman, Jenna McCabe, Kera Halpin and Caryn Miller; and he was a mentor to Andy Pham. Joe was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Bob; his sister, Martha; and his grandparents.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 22, 2021 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee.

Burial will follow at All Saints Cemetery in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Foundation or the Salvation Army.

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-2342

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
428 S. Indiana  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-6716

# Tribute Wall

N(

“ Sending my prayers to Joe and his family. I knew Joe when I was in high school. He was such a nice guy. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Nancy Suver(Grady)

nancy suver (grady) - January 12, 2025 at 11:16 PM

JK

“ My condolences to the family and staff. I just heard the news of his passing and as many are truly shocked. Dr Joe was my dentist for 30 years and also a good friend he will be missed.

Jane Keltner - July 25, 2021 at 06:00 PM

JB

“ I was saddened to hear of Joe's passing. All of the Wertz children hold a special place in my heart. I loved working for your dad and being your babysitter many, many years ago.  
Love and sympathy,  
Jackie (Cyrier) Bieber

Jackie Bieber - July 24, 2021 at 10:12 AM

DB

“ So very sad about the loss of this man. He has been taking care of our family for 30 years. Always caring and kind, always asks about how our boys are. We will miss him so much

Dennis & Beth Bisailon - July 23, 2021 at 11:38 PM

CM

“ Thank you doc for being such a kind friend to all of us. I think I told you when I last saw you, how much I enjoyed going to your office , something I have never ever said to a dentist before (!) And that you had a wonderful staff, who were always so welcoming. I also said that I appreciated your work, for you were truly an artist, a sculptor in your profession.  
I am looking forward to our next conversation....

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**chris mazur** - July 22, 2021 at 12:41 PM

LH

“ Hoping the cherished memories shown in all those sweet pictures bring Joe's family and friends some peace in such a difficult time. Remember that great smile! With sympathy,  
Lauren & Rick Hana

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**Lauren Hana** - July 21, 2021 at 08:48 PM

KW

“ Kevin Wagner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



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**Kevin Wagner** - July 21, 2021 at 06:49 PM

KW

*He will be missed for sure*

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**Kevin Wagner** - July 21, 2021 at 06:50 PM

RW

“ *Rebecca Wagner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



Rebecca Wagner - July 21, 2021 at 06:44 PM

PS

“ *I met Dr. Joe through his father who was orthodontist to our youngest son. He thought we would get along great. And we did!! We became friends and he was dentist to our 3 children, husband, myself and my brother. What a beautiful soul he was...loving, caring and great humor. We shared our joys and heartaches. He watched as our children grew up, married and had children of their own. And he shared the joy and love of his daughter and brothers and sisters. We are all so saddened by his passing. Our deepest sympathy to his daughter, family and of course everyone in his office. I will remember our laughs...God bless you Joe..Bill and Patti ,Bill, Jim and Magen Stupak*

Patricia Stupak - July 21, 2021 at 06:14 PM

BD

“ *Barbara Dams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



Barbara Dams - July 21, 2021 at 05:54 PM

WG

“ Dr. Wertz was a one of kind Dentist who cared for everyone. We lost him way too soon. To the family and staff, my wife and I send prayers of blessings! Heaven has rejoiced over his soul. He will not be replaced easily because he was more than exceptional.

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**William Greiner** - July 21, 2021 at 04:46 PM

DH

“ Sorry for your loss . Prayers for the family . He was a wonderful dentist who took excellent care of our family . He will be very missed . Brian & Donna Hamende 🙏

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**Donna Hamende** - July 21, 2021 at 04:45 PM

BG

“ Dr. Wertz and his staff were simply the best , the care and compassion they always showed was amazing. My condolences to his family, friends, and his staff.

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**Bob Gott** - July 21, 2021 at 02:39 PM

JD

“ Our entire family is heartbroken. Dr. Joe has been our dentist, friend, and sometimes counselor. My 3 children grew up never fearing their dental appointments and I would always hear Dr. Joe making them laugh, or as they grew older , giving them fatherly advice. His humming of his office tunes always seemed to ease my anxiety. 25 years of our 6 month cleanings and various appointments certainty made a big impact on our family and we were so very blessed to have known this man. We love you and will forever remember our Dr. Joe. The Dalzell Family

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**Jodi Dalzell** - July 21, 2021 at 11:21 AM

WD

“ *Our hearts break at the loss of our dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you!*  
*Wayne and Julie Dunham*



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**Wayne Dunham** - July 20, 2021 at 06:06 PM

ML

*I've been passing by his office for the last 20+ years meaning to say hi, I wasn't sure it appropriate since I haven't seen them since the wedding. I'm so sorry Sherri, I just found out, my heart hurts bad. I wish I could talk to you. I'm going by there again tomorrow and I won't be the same. Love you Sherri. Michael Londo. 224- 688-9152*

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**Michael Londo** - November 20, 2024 at 12:21 AM

MW

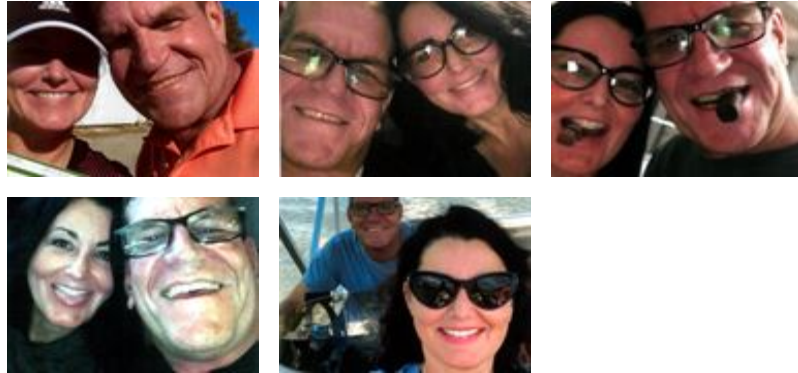
“ *For over 25 years I received great service from Dr. Wertz. But more than that was his special concern and attention which made me, and I'm sure, all his patients feel his care, concern and respect. His loss will certainly be felt by all those who were recipients of his personal, as well as professional, gifts.*

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**Michael Wayer** - July 20, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ 100 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - July 20, 2021 at 04:12 PM

TN

“ *Just wanted to say that Joe will be missed. I considered him my friend, more than my dentist of over 30 years. I think I was one of Joe's first patients.*

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**Terry Lou Nesbitt** - July 20, 2021 at 03:48 PM



“ Chris and I are incredibly saddened by the loss of Joe; an active community member, a talented and caring dentist, a friend, and a devoted father. We’ve got many wonderful memories about times spent with Joe and will never go past Shaw’s Crab House in Chicago without getting a smile on our faces. And the photo Christmas card taken in his backyard with Sheree and the horse is an image never to be repeated! His love of living and doing so to its fullest is and will be an inspiration as we continue on.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as his memory lives on.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,*

*Chris and Pam Powell*

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**Pamela Powell** - July 20, 2021 at 07:57 AM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss. Dr Wertz was a very compassionate man. You could tell he loved his job and his patients. I'm still in shock I will miss him.



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**Jerri Blansfield** - July 19, 2021 at 11:20 PM

GF

“ We are still just in shock over learning of Dr Joe's passing. He was the kindest dentist we have ever met. Always taking time with his patients and making it personal every time. Our prayers are with his family and the dental office during this difficult time.  
*Lara and Bob Gentile*



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**Gentile Family** - July 19, 2021 at 09:47 PM



“ *Dr Wertz was one in a million. He always made you feel like you were his most special patient. He called one day while I was going through chemo just to see how I was doing. He surrounded himself with a wonderful staff who must be devastated over this huge loss. I never met Faith but watched her grow up via pictures in his office.*

*My deepest condolences to everyone who loved him.*

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**Laurie VanLuyk** - July 19, 2021 at 09:06 PM

AH

“ *It was an honor to know Dr.Wertz I will be praying for his family and friends may God wrap his arms around you all during this very difficult time. He was such a prue genuine man. Sincerely, April Hennessy " 2HTKidneycare"*

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**april hennessy** - July 19, 2021 at 03:59 PM

SR

“ *Stephen C Ryan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



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**Stephen C Ryan** - July 19, 2021 at 02:22 PM

JG

“ *Jerry And JoAnn Grimes lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



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**Jerry and JoAnn Grimes** - July 19, 2021 at 09:12 AM

JG

“ *Judy Grimes lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



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**Judy Grimes** - July 19, 2021 at 09:11 AM

SS

“ *Dr. Wertz was our three generation dentist, but mostly our friend. He remembered everything about our family, and his care and concern is rarely found. Love and prayers to his family, Deia, and office family! I will miss him so!! XOXO*

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**Sue Shipp** - July 19, 2021 at 09:08 AM

IF

“ *Ingala Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



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**Ingala Family** - July 18, 2021 at 11:00 PM

GL

“ Dr. Wertz has been our family dentist over 25 years. He was always so kind, caring, talented and compassionate. Dr. Joe always asked about my family. He even visited my 100 year old father at the nursing home to check out his teeth because my dad was unable to make the office visit. He never even charged Dad for that visit!!! Such a caring man because he so cherished the gift of family. I pray that Dr. Wertz's family and office family will find strength and peace during this difficult time. May God bless him and keep him in His arms. We will all miss you.

Gloria Lagesse - July 18, 2021 at 09:28 PM

SR

“ Rene' and I were shocked to learn of Dr. Joe's passing. We've always enjoyed the care and compassion shown during our visits. He will truly be missed. Our condolences to his family and the entire office.  
Steve & Rene' Russell.

Steve Russell - July 18, 2021 at 08:34 PM

LM

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Dr. Wertz's passing. He was one of the kindest and caring people I've had the pleasure to know. My sincere condolences to his personal family and his work family. He will be missed by many.

Linda Maurer

Linda Maurer - July 18, 2021 at 07:03 PM



HF

“ We are all saddened , Dr Wertz had the kindness soul . Our condolences to his family.



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**Haworth Family** - July 18, 2021 at 06:40 PM

SP

“ Sharon Pool lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



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**Sharon Pool** - July 18, 2021 at 05:02 PM

KC

“ Katie Chigaros lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



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**Katie Chigaros** - July 18, 2021 at 04:23 PM

JS

“ Blessed to have Dr Wertz as my dentist and his father for my orthodontist as a young man. Your dedication to society will continue for generations. Eternal rest Brother.

*Jim Stupak  
Medinah Shriner*

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**jim stupak** - July 18, 2021 at 03:21 PM

DB

“ We lived in Bourbonnais from 1992-1998. We used Dr Joe as our dentist. Our son, who stayed in Illinois for his college and law school education. He remained in the Chicago area but drove to Dr Joe, because he was more than a dentist. We moved back to Kankakee county in 2019 and returned to Dr Joe. He was a beautiful soul and we will never forget him.

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**Donna Barrett** - July 18, 2021 at 02:21 PM

PR

“ Dr. Wertz had been a dentist for about a year, when I started going to him. He was a hard worker and was determined he could fix any dental issue that presented itself. He tried to get to know his patients on a personal level and would ask about any new events in Their lives. He will be missed, My prayers are being offered that Dr. Wertz will rest in peace, and that his family can find comfort in all the condolences and kind acts done by friends and family.

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**Pat Ritenour** - July 17, 2021 at 11:16 PM

GL

My family and I have been a patient of Dr. Wertz for 25 years. His talent, kind and thoughtful demeanor, and sincerity were just a few of his very special qualities. He always inquired about my family and was concerned about us. I remember when my 100 year old father could not venture out of the nursing home to be checked by his dentist. Dr. Wertz volunteered to go to the nursing home to look at my dad's teeth. Of course, he did not even charge anything. He did it out of the kindness of his heart. I pray for Dr. Joe's family that they find comfort and peace. We will all miss him so very much.

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**Gloria Lagesse** - July 18, 2021 at 12:57 PM

JS

“ I am absolutely devastated in hearing this. Dr. Joe has taken care of my family for around 25 years. My prayers go out to his family and staff. He was an outstanding dentist and man.

Jorie Schmidt - July 17, 2021 at 10:28 PM

DW

“ The world will miss my Big Brother Joe. You were a wonderful Dad, son, friend, doctor, companion, and brother. My memories and our adventures all our life will be treasured and never forgotten. You took care of all those around you. Your infectious laugh and humor about seemingly everything made the whole room smile and laugh. Now you will be in the the care and love of God. You left too soon, but your presence will forever be remembered.  
David

David A. Wertz - July 17, 2021 at 09:57 PM

PC

“ So sorry to staff and family Dr Joe was such a special person will miss him so much. Such an asset to the community he will be missed.  
Paula Crevier

Paula Crevier - July 17, 2021 at 09:44 PM

MM

“ Prayers for his family



Mary Morgan - July 17, 2021 at 06:58 PM

DF

“ My heart is aching. I think he had a special bond with all his patients. He knew, I had been through difficult times. When he lost his brother, I said concentrate on how he lived. Not on how he died. Remember the great memories. He was, along with all his office staff, there for me. One of the toughest times, to return to the office, without my husband after he died. (Rich would always be in the room next to me. Making the whole office laugh.) Again, great support and a hug when I left. I moved to Wisconsin but looked forward to driving down and seeing everyone. There are no words that can express my sadness. To his daughter Faith, I loved seeing your pictures in the office. Watching you grow into a beautiful young lady. He was so proud of you. Please remember he was loved by many. My deepest sympathy to all his family and friends.  
Diane Furlong



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**Diane Furlong** - July 17, 2021 at 04:19 PM

DC

“ Debi Chamness lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



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**Debi Chamness** - July 17, 2021 at 02:23 PM

SS

“ Dr. Joe meant so much to my son. Stosh is handicapped and Dr. Joe took the best care of him since he was 5. For over 30 years Stosh had always been so excited to go see him and the girls. Dr. Joe, you will be greatly missed. We love you!

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**Sally Smith** - July 17, 2021 at 01:24 PM

LM

“ Carol and I are so sad to hear of the passing of Dr. Joe. We have only been patients for a couple of years but quickly came to know what a wonderful person he was. We will miss him greatly. Our sympathy to his family and staff.

Leslie & Carol McClure - July 17, 2021 at 12:57 PM

KS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. The Wertz Family has my deepest condolences. May the memories you have of Joe give you some peace. I will be praying for you all.

Kathy Splear - July 17, 2021 at 11:43 AM

KS

“ Kathy Splear lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



Kathy Splear - July 17, 2021 at 11:37 AM

DJ

We are so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Wertz family. Wayne and Donna (Dubois) Jackson

Donna Jackson - July 17, 2021 at 06:19 PM

RG

“ We are so very sorry and deeply saddened. To say the least, we will definitely miss his kind and very caring manner. Dr. Wertz was a truly wonderful person and a friend to everyone. Our prayers and deepest sympathies to his entire family and his professional staff.



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**Ray and Christine Genis** - July 17, 2021 at 11:25 AM

MB

“ Our sympathy to the Wertz family and his staff , Dr. Wertz will truly be missed .

*Mike & Betty Betourne*

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**Michael Betourne** - July 17, 2021 at 10:26 AM

JE

“ Julie Enright lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



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**Julie Enright** - July 17, 2021 at 10:01 AM

SR

“ Our whole family have been going to Dr Joe since he started his practice. Not only a great dentist but a good friend. He and his office staff are like family to us. In deepest sympathy,  
*The Renewanz family*



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**Sheila Renewanz** - July 17, 2021 at 09:46 AM

MA

“ Went to Joe for over 20 years. He was an amazing person. He will be missed!! Prayers for comfort for his family and friends!

Mary Arends - July 17, 2021 at 09:41 AM

JB

“ Got to know Joe delivering mail to the office for many years, what a great guy.

*Jerry the Mailman*

jerry bjick - July 17, 2021 at 09:35 AM

CR

“ Candy Ray lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



Candy ray - July 17, 2021 at 07:22 AM

HM

“ Joe was the kindest man I've ever known. He kept up with everything in my families life. He'd always remember everything and ask about it every visit. He treat everyone like family that stepped through that door. He will be missed. My heart goes out to family, and his staff at his practice. ❤️ May he rest in peace.

Hannah Millage - July 17, 2021 at 01:24 AM



“ *Dr Joe was an amazing Dentist and person. When our son was 4, we started taking him to dr joe and he was so great with kids.. We were so happy my husband and I also started using him. He and all the girls in his office always made us feel like their extended family. I always loved seeing Faith’s pics everywhere in the office and Joe always lit up when he spoke about faith and all their trips and sport events together . He will be missed. Sending our deepest condolences to All. May he RIP.*

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**Pamela Baron** - July 16, 2021 at 10:21 PM



“ *We are deeply saddened by our dear friend Joe’s passing. He was more than just our family dentist. He always had a smile and a kind word. We loved him dearly and we shall miss him. Our sincere sympathy to all on the loss of such a good man.*

*Love and prayers, Dan and Val Guenette*

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**Val and Dan Guenette** - July 16, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ *Tom Eagan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz*



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**Tom Eagan** - July 16, 2021 at 08:15 PM

TE

“ We are in shock over the passing of our beloved dentist. We have been with him for 30 years. He didn't just treat you as a patient but as a personal friend. Our hearts are heavy for his family and staff. God bless your soul Doc and may you rest in peace.  
The entire Tom Eagan family

Tom Eagan - July 16, 2021 at 08:14 PM

PD

“ Polly Davis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph A. Wertz



Polly Davis - July 16, 2021 at 07:18 PM

PD

Dr. Wertz was the best Dentist I ever had plus a wonderful kind individual. Rest in peace Dr. Joe Wertz!

Polly Davis - July 16, 2021 at 07:20 PM

DT

“ I'm in shock. Best dentist I've ever had. Also a truly great person. May he rest in peace.



Deb Thiele - July 16, 2021 at 06:05 PM

TJ

*So sorry for your loss, Dr. Wertz was a very considerate person and took sincere interest in his patients. He has taken care of my dental needs for over 25 years I sincerely think he enjoyed his job and did his best for his patients. My prayers are with his family, Deia and the staff during this difficult time.*

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**Tom Johnson** - July 21, 2021 at 03:56 PM