



Joseph Anthony Proli MD

February 23, 1956 - September 9, 2024

Dr. Proli grew up in Manhattan, New York as an only child of Edward and Mary Proli. He loved New York City, and he had fond memories and many good friends. He was a standout athlete in both football and track. He won multiple state championships in track and earned a football scholarship to Rutgers before suffering a career ending neck injury. However, it was during the healing process from his injury that he found his real passion. He set his sights on becoming a cardiologist. He attended Rutgers University followed by medical school at the University of New Mexico. He then completed an internship and residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center with New York Medical College. From 1989-1990, he served as the Chief Medical Resident at St. Vincent's. From 1990-1993, he served a General Cardiology Fellowship with Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Proli was then the first cardiology fellow at Tulane University. Following the completion of his cardiology fellowship he began his career at Forrest General Hospital. In June of 1996, he joined the Heart Care Center in Laurel. He had a wonderful practice in Laurel spanning over twenty-five years. He touched the lives of so many patients, patient's families, employees, coworkers and others.

He was fiercely loyal and loved to take up for the sick. He had quite the compassionate heart for the needy, the poor, the oppressed, the overlooked and the seemingly forgotten. He was a true Good Samaritan servant that never overlooked anyone. He was an advocate for those who didn't feel they

had a voice. His generous heart found him giving donations to many charities, paying for funerals, giving to athletic clubs for the underprivileged and many others; all privately in an effort to preserve the dignity of others. He stood at the bedside through the night of so many as their life hung in the balance. Often times, his need to help others took him out of the “scope” of his practice of cardiology, but this endeared him to so many.

He also loved to teach and share his wisdom with anyone that was willing to listen. Medical students, many nurses, lots of employees and others benefited from his patience and willingness to teach.

He fell in love with Laurel and Jones County and found it an honor to call this place home. He enjoyed many hobbies including hunting, fishing, and gardening. He had quite a passion for art and cars and enjoyed collecting both. Since his retirement, he found a love for music and taught himself to play guitar, drums and other instruments. He enjoyed traveling the back roads and visiting small towns, but with Italy being his favorite.

Dr. Proli was also an avid supporter of the Laurel Little Theatre and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. He took great pride in the work of these two entities and his ability to support them in whatever ways he could. This includes the donation of art and monetary support for each.

The most important aspect in Dr. Proli’s life was a new found and constant growing faith in Jesus Christ. He professed his relationship with Jesus and made it a constant priority to grow closer to Him each and every day. He loved to read faith-filled books and have indepth conversations about spiritual matters. He had a great desire that his family and friends have the same relationship with Jesus that he had.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Mary Proli.

He is survived by his daughter, Olivia Coco Proli.

Pall bearers will be Ken Johnson, Scott Parker, Kim Stewart, Brad Newell, Ronnie Tynes, Jonathan Clark and Adam Clark.

Friends are asking that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Choices Clinic of Laurel.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Matthews Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapel laurel.com/>

Service

SEP 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapel laurel.com/>

Tribute Wall

SV

“ I have memories of Dr Proli both in Laurel and Hattiesburg MS. He had a family he loved, and around staff and patients was smiling much of the time. He was one of those physicians that made our jobs as nurses easy and enjoyable. Thank you for the memories. Rest in peace. Sharon Vincent, RN

Sharon Vincent - January 13, 2025 at 12:14 PM

DR

Sad. I admired him. As a respiratory therapist at FGH in the 1990s and as the stepdaughter of one of his Purvis Cardiologist patients who followed him from his practice move from Hattiesburg to Laurel. I was just informed yesterday of his passing.

djp, BS ED, RRT, RRT-SDS - May 25 at 07:50 AM

MC

“ I met Joe in high school at NVRHS Demarest NJ at the age of 13. He was the best friend to my boyfriend, David Preusch, (March 17,2023) and we all formed a bond in our group. We shared some amazing and fun times! I had a Volkswagen Beetle and Joe and other members of the football team lifted it over an enclosed fence area at the high school. I didn't get it lifted out until everyone was done laughing.
Joe was always a true and genuine friend who didn't tolerate fools lightly. I am so glad the last time I spoke in person with him I said "Love you Joe" and he replied "Love you too". You will be missed by so many Joe. I hope you're having a great old time up there with Dave!
"May holy Mary, the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life."

Mary Ellen Cook-Renwick - December 03, 2024 at 03:23 PM

LB

“ Didnt Dr Proli have a wife? I knew Dr Proli very well. Prayers. And condolences to his wife and daughter Olivia.

Lindy Bankston - November 14, 2024 at 06:43 PM

JB

“ Dr. Proli was the most wonderful, caring doctor. He treated my father then my mother after he died. He and my mom were a mutual admiration society. He said over and over that my mom was the image of Olivia De Haviland, his favorite actress. He was seated next to Ms De Haviland in a restaurant on one of his trips to Europe. That next time he saw Mother he went on and on about how it could have been mama sitting in her chair. Of course he named his daughter Olivia. He went on to treat me and my husband till he retired. We as well as so many others will miss him. He was a fine man. I am happy that he has my mom helping to look after him now!

Jan Blake - September 21, 2024 at 12:06 PM

KM

“ I was so saddened to hear of Dr Proli's passing! I met him as a newly graduated nurse. I worked my first nursing job on the telemetry floor at FGH . Doctors can be hard on new nurses so I was very nervous. Dr Proli was such a calming person and was so very warm and kind.i will never forget him and will always remember and be thankful for the days he made feel confident that I would be a good nurse. I know his patients thought the world of him. He will be greatly missed.

Kirsten Maxey - September 18, 2024 at 07:50 PM

EW

My family is one of many who appreciates the life of Dr. Proli. With the Lord's guidance, he helped save my husband, Gene by being insistent that he leave his office and get immediate attention or he would shortly have a fatal heart attack. That admonition got Gene's attention; and he had surgery soon afterward and was blessed with 29 more years of life.

Evelyn Windham - September 20, 2024 at 11:58 AM

CM

I planned to see you this April as I made my way up to see my father~it was over thirty five years since I met you Joe; Dr Proli- The most wonderful soul of a person and medical doctor. I hope your daughter has the same love of people, music and art as you did. May God be with her and her mother. You were loved

Christina Miller - February 07, 2025 at 03:25 AM



“ *Jeremy Malone lit a candle in memory of Joseph Anthony Proli*



Jeremy Malone - September 17, 2024 at 10:27 AM

CJ

“ *Charlotte Jackson lit a candle in memory of Joseph Anthony Proli*



Charlotte Jackson - September 16, 2024 at 09:39 PM

CJ

“ He was So Nice Always Said Hello So Sad My Heart goes out to his Daughter an Other Family,Hospital Family,Cardiology Family,All That That he Had Known A Long time💔🙏RIP Dr.Prolí

Charlotte Jackson - September 16, 2024 at 09:38 PM

HS

“ Wonderful man

Helen Elizabeth Swartzfager - September 14, 2024 at 10:32 AM



“ Rest in Heaven Dr. Prolí.

Joan Elizabeth - September 14, 2024 at 12:11 AM

BR

“ I remember the first time I met Dr. Prolí. He had a very critical patient in ICU @ SCRMC and he spent the entire night in the hospital in case the patient needed him. I could tell right away that he truly cared about his patients. I always enjoyed assisting him in performing procedures and caring for patients because he taught you as he provided care for his patients. When we had an emergency and I had to call him to come in, it was always such a relief to see him walk through the ICU doors. I saw him save so many patients lives over the years. He contributed greatly to the medical profession and to his fellow mankind. My thoughts and prayers go out to his daughter and those who will miss him.

Barbara Jackson, RN - September 13, 2024 at 02:43 AM

NM

As a patient in his last couple of years in practice and my dad being a patient of his in earlier years, I appreciate his care over a long time. His questioning me whether I prayed in one of my early appointments with him inspired me to a greater prayer life. My prayers continue for all his loved ones. He will be missed.

Nancy Musgrove - September 13, 2024 at 07:37 PM

JL

“ *Dr Proli was both of my parents physicians. My mom thought he hung the moon! I only got to know him for about the last 3 years, as he faithfully attended our church. I sit right in front of him during the service. He was such a kind man, who always greeted me with a smile! He will surely be missed in my heart! Until we meet again ❤️*

jean h looper - September 12, 2024 at 07:33 PM

AB

He was my doctor that finally found out that I had sleep apnea and he was a wonderful doctor. See you on the other side Dr. PROLI. I will continue to pray for his daughter.

Amanda E Braswell - September 14, 2024 at 11:00 AM

JB

“ *So sorry to hear this, but only for the one's left to cherish his memory, because, as a man of God and a true believer of Jesus Christ, he is in eternal Glory with the Holy Trinity. Amen. As a former patient of Dr. Proli, I can attest to the fact that he was the most caring, thorough and professional Doctor I have ever had the privilege of knowing, R.I.P.*

jesse baygents - September 12, 2024 at 09:04 AM

LW

“ *Dr. Proli was my heart doctor until he retired. He was the greatest! He is the reason I'm in as good a shape as I am at age 76. He will be greatly missed, but I look forward to seeing him again.*

Larry Welborn - September 11, 2024 at 07:54 PM

CS

“ *I worked at SCRMC for years with Dr Proli. I loved and respected him as a Doctor and a person. He was one in a million to the nurses and patients.*

If as a nurse there was something about the heart you wanted to know he was eager to teach always with a smile on his face.

At this moment my heart goes out to fellow employees especially Scott Parker. My prayers for his daughter, friends and the many nurses and faculty along with his patients who loved him so much. God Bless All, Fly High sweet man you deserve it. Cindy Smith Spain

cindy smith spain - September 11, 2024 at 06:17 PM

CW

Dr. Proil were my doctor also, he would go the back for you he did it for me. He will be truly missed, I had the experience of talking with him about church.

Clara Windham - September 12, 2024 at 04:26 PM

FJ

“ I remember when Dr Proli was being interviewed by WDAM for his 100th heart cath. Kaila was in the hospital after having her 1st heart attack. Kaila saw “Proli” on TV. She called the nurses station saying that she was sick but she needed to see “Proli”. After the interview guess who walked in Kailas room. “Proli”. Jail closed her eyes like she was asleep or sick. Dr Proli said Kaila what’s wrong. She told him that she saw him on TV. He asked how he did. Kaila smiled and gave him a : 1:👍. He flashed his beautiful smile gave her a : 1:👍 and walked out. She loved him as he cared for her heart but I know that he loved her and gave him a piece of his heart also. As Kaila would say Rest Easy “Proli”.💔🙏😭

Faye Jackson - September 11, 2024 at 05:14 PM

NL

“ My husband, Dr. Leader founded the Heart Care Center in Laurel. I was never so happy to meet someone as Dr. Joe Proli! Larry was the only Cardiologist in the practice and Joe came and just melted in. He also melted into everyone’s heart. He did what had to be done, he didn’t complain and he was an excellent physician. They worked so hard, so long, side by side and were very welcomed into the community. Their wonderful support staff became family. He was the first one at my door when my son Danny was born. He was carrying a giant wicker bassinet with a big bow on it. He made me feel like a million bucks. (Which is not easy two days after having a baby).

I worked in New York City and Larry did his fellowship in New Jersey and we were so happy to have someone to talk to about familiar places and weather. Everyone got along with Dr. Proli. I could talk to him for hours about art. He certainly had an appreciation for beauty and a compassion for others. May his memory be a blessing. He will be missed.

Nancy Leader - September 11, 2024 at 04:42 PM

JU

“ *Dr Proli always listened and tried to make lives of everyone better. Glad to know he is with Jesus sending prayers to his daughter*



julie - September 11, 2024 at 02:50 PM

PA

“ *DR PROLI WAS THE BEST WE WORKED WITH HIM WE LOVED HIM VERY MUCH HE A GREAT PERSON*

Pamela - September 11, 2024 at 01:12 PM

TH

“ *I remember Dr. Proli as being my neighbor in Laurel. He was always kind and greeted us with a smile. When my Mom would not feel well, he would always make sure she was ok. I'm sorry, I never got the chance to say thank you. My prayers and condolences are with the family. Tracy Hall, Gluckstadt, MS*

Tracy Hall - September 11, 2024 at 01:06 PM