

John Terrill Baker, born February 16, 1946, died August 21, 2022, of complications of bone cancer. He grew up in Athens, Pennsylvania, where he was extraordinarily active at his high school: valedictorian, captain of the football, basketball and track teams, and could sing too: he was in the glee club as well.

At Dartmouth, he was a chemistry major and a member of Kappa Kappa Kappa (now Kappa Chi Kappa). One of his first classes was with John Kemeny, which created a lifelong love of computer programming, which was his major hobby. His senior yearbook noted “Baker, with the omnipresent bottle of Jack Daniels, (was) director of the Committee on Shows and Spectacles, Emeritus”. A favorite phrase of John’s: “There are more horse’s asses in this world than horses”.

After two years at Dartmouth Medical School, John went on to Harvard Medical School (1971) and Duke Medical School for his internship, residency and fellowship in cardiovascular medicine (1975). He served as director of the Cardiac ICU at Duke, before establishing his own practice in Cardiology, which ultimately grew to 9 physicians. His research was published in both the American Journal of Cardiology and the American Heart Journal.

He met his wife Cynthia (Cindy) Silvaggi who was working as a research nurse at Duke in 1974, and they were married in 1982. After retirement, John and Cindy moved to Pflugerville, Texas in 2015, to be close to son Daniel and daughter in law Jennifer.