



Peter James Bartzen M.D.

September 29, 1952 - April 9, 2026

Dr. Peter James Bartzen, 73, of Racine, Wisconsin died April 9, 2026. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, doctor, brother, uncle and friend, he will be terribly missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. Born September 29, 1952 in Milwaukee, WI, Peter went on to study at the University of Notre Dame - BA, Class of 1974 and then at the University of Minnesota - MD, Class of 1979. Peter worked as a dedicated General & Vascular Surgeon in southeast Wisconsin. Retiring in October of 2020 at the age of 68 after 42 years of training and clinical practice, Peter went on to devote himself to enjoying his growing family. He traveled across the globe to spend time with his 11 grandchildren and, when he could, found time to golf, study history, ski, hunt, and ride bikes with his wife, Angela. His most precious days were spent at his lake house, surrounded by his family, patiently teaching his grandchildren to fish, captaining the boat and lifeguarding as they played and swam. Peter was a beautiful skier and golfer who enjoyed perfecting his craft in defiance of less-than-cooperative knees. Peter & Angela celebrated 50 years of marriage on July 12, 2025, and he described meeting the love of his life at the age of 20 as one of his greatest accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Angela, his children, Nicholas (Rachael) Bartzen, Elena Bartzen, Elise (Daniel) O'Brien, Natalie (Joel) Sharbrough and 11 grandchildren - Marco, Jane, Vivian, Wesley, Anna, Emilia, Peter, Ellis, Heidi, Bobby and Ada.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 14 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Sturino Funeral Home, 3014 Northwestern Ave. Racine, WI. On Wednesday, April 15th, there will be a Visitation at 11:00 am followed by Mass at 12:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church, 2201 Northwestern Ave. Racine, WI.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his honor to a charity or cause of your choosing.

Peter once said that he would “like to be remembered as a good man”, but his children would like to note that he will be remembered as the best.

Cemetery Details

West Lawn Memorial Park

9000 Washington Ave
Racine, WI 53406

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Avenue
Racine, WI 53404
(262) 632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

Visitation

APR 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
2201 Northwestern Ave
Racine, WI 53404-2518
(262) 634-5526

Funeral Mass

APR **15**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
2201 Northwestern Ave
Racine, WI 53404-2518
(262) 634-5526

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to the entire Bartzen Family, especially to Nick & Rachael (our niece), Vivi and Ellis. My you find comfort in the countless wonderful/ wonder-filled memories you have of your beloved father/grandfather.

David Exner - April 15 at 04:41 PM

AN

Thank you

Angie - April 18 at 09:49 PM

BH

“ Our family would like to send our deepest sympathies for Dr. Bartzen's passing! Dr. Bartzen was our father's surgeon on several occasions back 30 years ago. He suffered from several vascular issues and Dr. Bartzen was always there for him and our family. One of the most talented doctors ever and a tremendous person in general. We will never forget him! Most sincerely, the family of Russell Reed Jr.

God bless your family during this most difficult time. We will pray for your comfort and peace.

Bonnie (Reed) Hagopian - April 15 at 02:47 PM

AN

Thank you so much.

Angie - April 18 at 09:49 PM

AH

“ I remember Peter as the smoothest skier ever. He made it look simple as he would sail thru the gates. He always helped us less graceful racers as we tried to emulate him. He was quick with a smile and was loved by all.
My thoughts and prayers are with the family until we meet up with Peter again!
Ann Hawkins Class of 76, ND

Ann Hawkins - April 14 at 09:31 PM

AN

Thank you Ann

Angie - April 18 at 09:48 PM

DG

“ Angie--My deepest condolences to you and your family. I enjoyed having Dr. Bartzen as a colleague, and know how much our patients appreciated him for his care and surgical expertise. You and his children, and his grandchildren just meant the world to him, and brought him so much joy. Keeping you all in my prayers. ~ Dana Griffin

Dana Griffin - April 14 at 06:59 PM

AN

□

Angie - April 18 at 09:49 PM

DR

“ Debora R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

Debora R. - April 14 at 04:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Peter James Bartzan M.D..

April 14 at 03:35 PM



“ Sorry to hear about Peter. We'll send a donation from all of his favorite across the street neighbors on 3rd St. in Duluth. Love to all the Bartzans, The Lockharts

John Lockhart - April 13 at 09:42 PM



Thank you Gang ☐

angie - April 14 at 12:17 PM



“ Dmitriy planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzan M.D..

Dmitriy - April 13 at 04:38 PM



“ Chuck Nagle & Jennifer Nagle Daake planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzan M.D..

Chuck Nagle & Jennifer Nagle Daake - April 13 at 02:39 PM

CB

“ Chuck and Bobbi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

Chuck and Bobbi - April 13 at 02:39 PM

CN

“ Peter was the kindest, most affable, cordial, warm-hearted, genial, fun-loving, sociable, and welcoming individual I ever had the pleasure of knowing. Case in point: my brother and I took Peter and Angie out for dinner one evening while visiting in Minneapolis. We made Peter pay the cover charge, the cost for dinner and drinks, the dessert, as well as the valet charge. Total for the night well over \$125. Peter just smiled, paid the bill, never said a word. What a terrific cousin!

Peter made the world a better place for everyone who came in contact with him. He will never be forgotten, only remembered as “one of a kind.”

RIP, Dr. Peter James Bartzen, Jr. Hope to see you on the other side.

Chuck Nagle

chuck nagle - April 13 at 02:32 PM

AN



angie - April 14 at 12:18 PM

CS

“ Coleman, Duval, Jones, Hughes, da Silva purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



Coleman, Duval, Jones, Hughes, da Silva - April 13 at 12:27 PM

CS

“ Coleman, Duval, Jones, Hughes, da Silva planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

Coleman, Duval, Jones, Hughes, da Silva - April 13 at 12:27 PM

AT

“ Advocate Christ Kidney Transplant purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



Advocate Christ Kidney Transplant - April 13 at 12:21 PM

LF

“ Love you forever, Dick & Jody and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



Love you forever, Dick & Jody and family - April 13 at 11:04 AM

LF

“ Love you forever, Dick & Jody and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

Love you forever, Dick & Jody and family - April 13 at 11:04 AM

MG

“ In Innsbruck, Peter was in my pension on Schmelzergasse. He was the friendliest, politest, most easy going persons in our group. Never had an unkind word about anyone. When he skied down the slopes of Mutters, the Austrians would stand to the side and watch him effortlessly skip from mogel top to mogel top like he was taking a walk in the park. It was a joy to see him at our 50 year Salzburg/Innsbruck reunion and I am so glad he had such a happy and successful life after ND. Rest in peace my friend. - Mike Gaule

Michael Gaule - April 13 at 10:53 AM

AN

Thanks for the memories , Mike ❤️

Angie - April 13 at 05:23 PM

NS

“ Nader Salti purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



Nader Salti - April 13 at 08:04 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



April 12 at 11:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

April 12 at 11:31 PM



“ David, Markian, and Alan purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



David, Markian, and Alan - April 12 at 10:56 PM



“ Brad Johnson & Lisa Kaprelian purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



Brad Johnson & Lisa Kaprelian - April 12 at 09:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..*



April 12 at 07:38 PM



“ *The Jack & Terry Bartzen Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..*



The Jack & Terry Bartzen Family - April 12 at 12:31 PM



“ *The Jack & Terry Bartzen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..*

The Jack & Terry Bartzen Family - April 12 at 12:31 PM



“ *Steve and Michelle Ryder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..*



Steve and Michelle Ryder - April 11 at 11:31 PM

CM

“ Chaka M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

Chaka M. - April 11 at 08:15 PM

CG

“ I worked with Dr B at Aurora on HWY 20, first meeting him in the surgery center and then in his office. He was a great surgeon teacher and friend. He always made it a point to reach out to his “people” when something was going on in their life. Dr. B was also a generous man. Many times on the holidays him and Angie would invite his “people” to their home for a wonderful elegant meal. Dr B will be truly missed and even though he didn't spend much time on earth, I hope his family knows he will be cheering for them from heaven. Thank you Dr B for the great years I worked with you. Connie Gudbaur



connie gudbaur - April 11 at 07:06 PM

AN



angie - April 12 at 12:03 AM

JF

I had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Bartzen when we worked together at Racine Medical. He was so soft-spoken, kind and a dedicated surgeon. Even years later, at reunion events for the clinic, he always remembered who I was and how things were going for our family. His smile and caring manner will always be remembered. Sincere condolences to the Bartzen family.

Jodi Fidler - April 12 at 09:13 PM

JK

It was an honor to work with Dr. Bartzen from RMC to Aurora. His professional and kind manner served his patients and the employees each and every day. Our deepest sympathy to Angie and family. JoAn and Paul Kolpek

JoAn Kolpek - April 13 at 12:56 AM

AN

Thank you Joann and Paul

Angie - April 13 at 05:25 PM

AN



Angie - April 18 at 10:46 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..*



April 11 at 05:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Peter James Bartzen M.D..

April 11 at 05:03 PM

NN

“ I have known Peter only for one year. We played golf on the same foursome a few times and had dinner on Tapas Tuesdays. He was such a friendly person and made me feel comfortable from the first meeting. I saw him practicing the day before his death. I will miss him. My thoughts are with Angie and the kids. What a shock it must be!

Naoki Nakamura - April 11 at 04:56 PM

AN

Thank you Naoki. He enjoyed playing golf with you.

angie - April 12 at 12:06 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Peter James Bartzen M.D..



April 11 at 01:00 PM

JM

“ I haven't been in touch with Pete since high school. He went off to college. I went off to the army. But I have very fond memories of growing up with Pete. I am one of the many who even as kids admired and respected Pete. He was really good at everything, including being a good person. He was a year older so we weren't in school together. But we spent a lot of time playing golf and skiing. He was much better than I at both. But he was kind and patient in waiting for me to catch up and offering tips. Perhaps my most vivid memory is the night Pete taught Bruce and I about sex, as any son of a gynecologist is certainly qualified to do. We were walking back and forth on the sidewalk in front of our house as he told us. Of course, we were fascinated, and a bit horrified that our parents did such things. When we went in the house we learned that my dad, ever the surveillance master, had listened to our discussions through the front door intercom. My memory is that he sat us down and talked to us about what we had learned. I don't remember what dad said but I do remember it being awkward. Pete was just following in the footsteps of Doc Bartzen who came to our classrooms and taught a generation of Catholic boys about sex. Our children thank Pete for that early tutelage and Doc Bartzen's later seminar.

Our best to all the Bartzen's from all the McGregors. From Jim McGregor.

Jim McGregor - April 10 at 06:20 PM

AN

Thanks Jim for the kind words and the laugh.

Angie - April 11 at 11:52 AM

AB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Peter was such a gentle soul and he will be dearly missed!!

Ann M. Barry - April 10 at 03:19 PM

RJ

I was truly shocked to hear of Peter's death. I knew him as a physician. He always passed a few words with Rafi when we would meet a very pleasant kind. Person is what I knew him to be.

Rafiullah June - April 11 at 11:51 AM

AN

Thank you Ann

Angie - April 11 at 11:52 AM

CA

I met Peter 54 years ago when he started dating my friend, Angie Speranza, at Saint Mary's College. Peter was on the ski team at Notre Dame, and wore a toga surprisingly well at the famous Dillon Hall toga parties! I knew Peter was a smart guy when he chose my beautiful and intelligent friend to be his wife. I danced at their wedding in 1975, and over the past 50 years, watched them raise a beautiful family together. Angie, I still cherish the visit you and Peter made to Dallas after my husband passed. Although skiing had taken a toll on Peter's knees, his sense of humor was definitely still intact! I will always remember Peter as a kind, funny, and warm-hearted guy, whose love of skiing was second only to his love of Angie and his beautiful family. His light is shining brightly in heaven now....may his memory be eternal.

Camille Anter - April 11 at 11:02 PM

AN

Thank you, June

angie - April 12 at 12:06 AM

JB

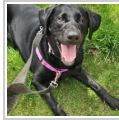
I was so sad to hear of Dr Bartzen's passing. I have fond memories of working with him in surgery. He was always a kind man. May God give you His comfort and peace.

Jill Borgardt - April 12 at 08:57 AM

JM

Pet and I were classmates at Notre Dame, and spent our sophomore year in Innsbruck, Austria. Two years ago we reconnected at the Innsbruck group reunion, and had a nice chat with Pete and Angie. Condolences to Angie and the family - Pete and you will be in our prayers. Jerry and Nancy McCarthy.

Jerry McCarthy - April 12 at 11:34 AM



My sincere condolences to his wife and children. I worked first as a radiographer with Dr. Bartzen in surgery, then later in a management position. He was truly a kind physician and great person to work with. I never saw him upset, always pleasant to approach. He really was pleasant to work with and for. May you each find comfort in caring thoughts and memories being shared. Sue Herrmann

Susan Ann - April 12 at 05:10 PM

EB

Peter was a teammate on the Notre Dame ski team in 1973-74. Won just about every race he finished and he finished most of them. Almost twenty years after graduating from ND, I became Director of Operations for Colorado Ski Country USA, which landed me on a chair lift in Vail's Back Bowls with Cindy Nelson, the former US Olympic skier from Lutzen. I asked Cindy whether she happened to know my friend, Peter Bartzen. She almost fell off the chair, admitting she had a crush on him as a young girl on the Lutzen ski team, where Peter was a few years ahead of her. She was delighted to learn he had graduated from Notre Dame and med school, and had a successful career as a surgeon in Wisconsin. Peter was a perfect gentleman in every respect and he will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, my friend.

Ed Byrne - April 14 at 01:08 PM