

A Caylor-Nickel Clinic physician from 1963 to 1970, Dr. Merrill Wayne Rusher, 86, of Fort Wayne died at 5:49 a.m. Sunday, March 6, 2005, at his home.

He had been a captain in the U.S. Navy's Medical Corps from 1943 during World War II to 1963, when he came to the Bluffton practice after his retirement from Navy service. In January of 1970 he started his own medical practice in Fort Wayne and continued until his retirement in 1997.

Born Dec. 9, 1918, in Huntington, he was the son of Gilbert and Bertha Ann Kivett Rusher. He was a 1936 graduate of Milford High School and did his pre-med at Ohio State University, going on to medical school at the University of Cincinnati for his medical degree.

His marriage was in Fort Wayne to Shirley June Enochs, who survives. He was a member of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church at Milford.

Surviving, in addition to the wife, are four sons, Daniel of Zionsville, Douglas of Wooster, Ohio, John of Fishers and Michael of Fort Wayne; two step-sons, C. David Beaver of Forest, Ind., and Philip Beaver of Indianapolis; 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at D. O. McComb & Sons Maplewood Funeral Park Home in Fort Wayne, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at Glancy Funeral Homes, Walker Chapel in Montpelier, where the funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, with Pastor Damon Hayward officiating. Burial will be in Twin Hill Cemetery at Pennville. Memorials to Good Shepherd United Methodist Church at Milford or Parkview Home Health and Hospice of Fort Wayne.

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