



## Matthew Amos Houghton Jr, D.O.

May 17, 1942 - August 31, 2014

Matthew Amos Houghton Jr. D.O.

Glen Arbor - Matthew Amos Houghton Jr., D.O., 72, of Glen Arbor, Michigan, passed away peacefully at Munson Medical Center Hospice House early Sunday morning, August 31, 2014, after a determined battle with cancer. His beloved wife Barbara Ann ("Barbie") was by his side. Matthew was born on May 17, 1942, at Jennings Hospital in Detroit to the late Matthew A. Houghton Sr., D.O., and Jane Elizabeth Hunter Houghton. A Rotary kid and musician, he graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1960, played the French horn in the band, guitar in his performing group and sang soprano solo in the Christ Church Grosse Pointe Boys Choir. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Classical Music at Olivet College, where he was president of the Kappa fraternity, and pursued his medical degree from A.T. Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery in Kirksville, Missouri, graduating in 1969.

Throughout Matthew's childhood, the Houghton family spent summers at Pepler's Birchwood on Big Glen Lake. During those summers, he lived on the docks of Glen Craft Marina and was mentored by Phil Krull. In October, 1970, his love of the Leelanau Peninsula cinched his decision to accept a position as the Director of Medical Education and Full Time Emergency Room Physician at the Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital. He established the Empire Clinic with the Detwiler Drugstore in Empire, MI on June 12, 1971 and married the former Barbara Ann Beckett of Traverse City the following October 1, 1971. Matthew, Barbara and German Shepherds soon landed at Hocton Meade, their beloved Miller Hill home. Deane Milks R.N. and assistant Madeline Wendels teamed with Doc for the first 10 years.

Dr. Houghton celebrated the 40th anniversary of his country family/sports medicine/emergency practice in 2011. Many of his patients have known no other doctor in their lives. The medical trio of Doc Houghton, Office Manager Marion Harriger and Receptionist/Billings Manager Vicki Finstad has been a constant in their lives. For both local residents and area visitors, a visit to Doc's office could be counted on to include

comprehensive medical services at all hours and so much more. Patients traveled long distances to hobble in, receive an osteopathic manipulative treatment from Doc and leave the office erect and smiling. Often, perfectly healthy patients stopped by to chat or drop off fresh corn. Recently, a bag of beef jerky was left on the office door knob.

Doc Houghton was instinctively positive and encouraging. He listened. Most likely, the extra time he spent with each of his patients was not cost efficient. That was not how he measured his life. A lifelong patient recently whispered into his ear, "Doc, thank you for believing in me when no one else did."

Dr. Houghton did not limit his physician's duties to his private medical practice. He led the county emergency training drills, bringing realism to disaster exercises that could become life savers. He dragged himself out of bed in the middle of many nights to perform his duties as the Leelanau County (41 years), Benzie County (12 years) and Grand Traverse County (14 years) Chief Medical Examiner. His years of expertise created a high level of professionalism during county Sheriff Office investigations into unnatural and unexplained deaths. On the witness stand, he provided a steady voice grounded by medical science.

"Gentlemen (Ladies), let's all be careful out there." Generations of Glen Lake student athletes are familiar with those words spoken by 'Doc Houghton.' He was a fixture on basketball court (20 years) and football field sidelines (43 years). After Title IX was enacted, Matthew was the proud team physician of the 1978 Lady Lakers who won the Girls State Basketball Championship. The Michigan Legislature paid tribute to Matthew in 1979 for initiating the "Glen Lake Plan" which assigned specific responsibilities to each member of a coaching staff in the event of injury to an athlete. The Plan was published to national acclaim in the American School Board Journal and has been adopted by high schools throughout the nation.

A gifted teacher like his father, Matthew promoted lifelong staff development, senior citizen health education and medical/safety learning opportunities for high school students. Patients left Matthew's office clear on how to take their meds. He developed water rescue training for the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and advanced life support training for the Leelanau County EMT-S. As an Associate Clinical Professor of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Wayne State University College of Medicine, hundreds of medical interns and residents rotated through Dr. Houghton's Empire and Glen Arbor Medical Arts offices, leaving with enhanced understanding of the diverse demands of country practice and the power of patient-physician connections.

Dr. Houghton gave away his time -and loved every minute of it. He offered his expertise and leadership skills as the Medical Director of the Michigan Special Olympics (1986-

2008), the Medical Director of the North American Vasalopett and U.S. Ski Association (1980-2001) and Director of the Northwest Michigan Sports Medicine Clinic (1978-2013) where he provided ongoing technical assistance to 10 northern Michigan high schools. He was a frequently called upon consultant to organizations as varied as the National Transportation Safety Board, the Union Internationale Motonautique, the Central Military Command of the United Arab Emirates, the USAF Capsule Recovery Team (Cape Canaveral, Florida), the Navy Seals and the Federation of Italian Motorboating.

At the age of four, Matthew's mother took him to the boat racing 'pits' of the Unlimited Hydroplanes docked at the Roostertail of Belle Isle for the Gold Cup Race. He fell in love. He taught himself every aspect of power boat racing and the dynamic variables of craft design, racer skills, speed, weather, pit crew preparedness and more. It is not surprising then, that after the tragic offshore boat racing death of Mark Lavin in 1987; the Lavin family founded the Mark Lavin Memorial Offshore Medical and Safety Foundation, Inc. and asked Dr. Houghton to be the Foundation Director. During the past 26 years, the Foundation has provided training on Medical Safety protocols to members of offshore racing communities in 26 countries. The Foundation's collaboration with engineers, military rescue teams, helicopter pilots, trauma specialists and water craft designers, has resulted in the design and manufacture of safer hulls, cockpits, helmets and personal safety devices. Every racer is now required to complete the "Dunker" extrication exercise (successfully). The presence of a skilled rescue team hovering above in helicopters is the accepted norm. Untold numbers of injuries and deaths have been avoided as a result of the Foundation's work.

Dr. Matt was fun. One of his answering machine messages began with, "You have reached the phone of the medical examiner. If you are dead, call 911..." He loved a Sunday afternoon drive in his guards red Porsche 911 Targa with a whale tail. He was one with canines - including a fair number who were grateful for his skill in removing porcupine quills. And many remember the silent gorilla circulating among the crowd at the 1979 Glen Lake PTA carnival. The gorilla's identity was always a mystery.

Several weeks ago Matthew stated, "I love my life. I've had a heck of a life." Yes, Doc Houghton you have. And we are all the better for it.

Matthew is survived by his wife Barbara Ann Beckett Houghton of Glen Arbor, sister Nancy Jane Elizabeth Hunter Houghton, D.O., (Cindy) of Riverview, father-in-law James J. Beckett of Traverse City, godmother and aunt Estelle Johnson, formerly of Grosse Pointe, sister-in-law Carolyn M. Beckett (Peter Coppelman) of Traverse City and formerly of Alexandria, VA, sister-in-law Janice Beckett Duddles (Steven) of Big Rapids, brother-in-

law James Robert Beckett (Nora) of Harrodsburg, KY, nephew Alexander Beckett Coppelman (Brandi Dickey) of Annandale, VA, niece Elizabeth Beckett Coppelman D.V.M. of St. Paul MN, niece Stacy McElwaney (David), great nephew Adam Ralph Houghton McElwaney all of Trenton, niece Jennifer Craanen of Riverview, god daughter, Halley Buchan Brandsen (Nate) of Traverse City, godson Anthon Bozzi of Traverse City, and goddaughter Stella Warnes of Maple City.

He is also survived by his beloved office team Marion Harriger of Empire and Vicki Finstad of Maple City who have been by his side for 35 years; Cindy Geiser, C. N.P. and Jamie Warnes, R.N. (Diener for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner). Additionally, Doctor Matt is survived by the five remaining members of the Angel Team for the Mark Lavin Medical Safety Foundation, David Grattopp, firefighter paramedic, of Empire and Traverse City, Steven Dillon, paramedic, of Ann Arbor, Gary L. McGhee, firefighter paramedic, of Suttons Bay, Edward Haughn, D.O., of Traverse City and Portage, and Craig Dunham, paramedic, Ann Arbor.

Doc Houghton is preceded in death by his mother Jane Hunter Houghton, father, Matthew A. Houghton Sr., D.O., of Grosse Pointe, and mother-in-law Dorothy Alice Beckett of Traverse City.

Barbara and family members wish to thank the extraordinary staff members of Munson Medical Center, Orchard Creek, Integrity Home Health Care, Great Lakes Therapy House Call and the Munson Hospice House. The messages and prayers from patients, friends and professional colleagues around the world sustain us.

A viewing will take place on Saturday, September 13, from 6:00-9:00pm at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. The memorial service to honor Matthew's life will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, September 14, 2014, in the gymnasium of Glen Lake High School followed by a gathering at the Glen Arbor Township Hall.

Memorial contributions: To advance Matthew's aspirations, Dr. Matt's Dreams Account (State Savings Bank, c/o Shirley Lawson, P.O. Box 476, Empire, MI 49630); to honor his love of animals, The Leader Dogs for the Blind (1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307); to ensure the safety of Doc's hometown, Glen Arbor Fire and Rescue Association (P.O. Box 417, Glen arbor, MI 49636), or the Empire Area Museum, c/o David Taghon (11544 S. Lacore Road, Empire, MI 49630).

Family contact information: P.O. Box 116, Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to share your thoughts and memories with the family.

The family is being served by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

**13**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**SEP** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**14**

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Glen Lake Community Schools Gymnasium  
3375 W. Burdickville Road, Glen Arbor, MI, US, 49664

# Comments

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“ my Doctor....my Advisor....but more Importantly my Friend...Urging me to play better at my school's soccer games, and supportive no matter the outcome...It was Always a Joy to see Him when i lived in the area, and in later years returning to visit. A Good Man...and though years have passed my Respect for You has only grown~~

**kenneth crane** - September 12, 2018 at 09:29 PM

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“ Hey Matt. I'm sitting here looking at the stars and drinking a Meijers Rum an tonic and wearing the old APBA red coat. Thinking of our times together the events that you and Dave and I covered; almost 30 yr with Special O; Vasa races and lots of OMT.! You were are and will always be my greatest friend! I will do this in your memory on this for as long as rum and tonic and I can get into this Jacket! LOL God Bless You Mathew; till we meet again.... Edward

**Edward Haughn DO** - August 31, 2017 at 10:10 PM

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“ To our most beloved Dr Matt may God Almighty bless you eternal peace . We will always love you . Prayers from your family and friends from Dubai

**adelaida** - November 08, 2014 at 03:12 PM

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“ Time (by Henry VanDyke0

Time is too slow for those who wait,  
Too swift for those who fear  
Too long for those who grieve,  
Too short for those who rejoice ...  
But for those who love,  
Time is Eternity.

Dearest Barbie and family,  
Our belated but very sincere condolences and love to you on your loss of dear Matthew.

So sorry to be this late, and to have missed the wonderful celebration of his life in Sept, but we were gone on a business trip out west. Seems one can never catch up when time is spent that way! But we know that all the written tributes herein are so so true -- Matthew was truly an exceptional human being. He touched so many people in countless ways. His spirit and generosity were beyond measure. And he chose wisely in his life mate ... one who matched the depth of his love and giving. Barb, know that you are in our thoughts very often, and prayers always. We pray also for the repose of Matthew's soul that he may be enjoying the embrace of our Lord in Eternity.

May Time be kind to you ... a time of healing and eventual rejoicing.  
Love and deep sympathy,  
Judy and Glenn

Judy LaCross - October 28, 2014 at 09:22 PM

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“ Video Tribute - Loving Memories of Doc Houghton



Video Tribute - September 16, 2014 at 09:18 AM

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“ Helen Richards (HEJ) lit a candle in memory of Matthew Amos Houghton Jr, D.O.



Helen Richards (HEJ) - September 15, 2014 at 06:53 PM

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“ Just got GP News. What a shock - always thought I'd get up to the Traverse City area and stop in to see my old friend. Such good memories of the jeep, Christ Church, our many friends. Rest in peace, dear Matt. Condolences to the family.  
Helen (Jinks) Richards

Helen Richards - September 15, 2014 at 03:41 PM

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“ I opened up the Grosse Pointe News earlier today and learned of the Houghton family's loss. I really didn't know Matt, but that isn't to say that he didn't have an impact on my life. This seems small, but it isn't for me; and I've told this story to many people over the years. Our family were kitty corner backyard neighbors of the Houghtons when I was growing up. At dusk during the summer Matt used to play Taps on what I presume was a favorite trumpet. It was astounding for a ten year old (that would be me at the time) to listen to this. It wasn't every night, but it was very regular. His timing was near perfect. It wasn't dark and it wasn't still light out. It was dusk. I have been blessed that I have many wonderful memories of my youth, but listening to Matt playing Taps is certainly one of them.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Mike Getz

Mike Getz - September 14, 2014 at 12:11 AM

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“ I was at Olivet College for the last two years of Matt's time there. He was a fraternity brother of mine- Kappa Sigma Alpha. I remember living in the frat. house during his Senior year. He had one of the back rooms off the kitchen and was notorious for late night studying and eating whenever he wanted. He was a gifted cook of mac and cheese, it came in a little blue box marked Kraft. He also had one of the few cars at the house and would periodically fill the van with brothers and head to the Garfield Lake Tavern. Matt also kept us entertained with stories of the hydroplane races on the Detroit River. He volunteered every year to help out in the first aid tents. We didn't see each other very often after he graduated but he will be missed by many!!

Bob Lewallen, Oliver class of '67, current Traverse City resident

Bob Lewallen - September 13, 2014 at 03:31 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



carolyn beckett - September 11, 2014 at 10:07 PM

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carolyn beckett - September 11, 2014 at 10:02 PM

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**carolyn beckett** - September 11, 2014 at 09:57 PM

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**carolyn beckett** - September 11, 2014 at 09:56 PM

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“ Good Morning

On behalf of Dubai international marine club and every body know Dr matt in the middle east , we are sending our heartfelt condolences, We feel that our lost is too much by the death of our honest friend . We remember a very good things from this man wishing god help him and blessing his family .

Ms Barbara / this is the life , we will leave it one day by our bodies , but will stay the good memory for each of us , and Dr matt is one of these we Remember him by many good things he did in his life . He was a brave man , love his work , love people , always smiling .

His famous words when he leave the helipad towards the race course :- ( race control , race control , this is air rescue ,we are proceeding to the race course ) . Or when he is in the rescue boat calling race control by the radio :- ( race control , race control , this is victory team rescue , we are proceeding the harbor to the race course ).

All the people in the photos attached and others are love him , always remember him , smile if they hear his name .

Best regards, wafiq  
Wafiq <wafiq@dimc.ae>

**wafiq** - September 11, 2014 at 09:52 PM

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“ Nancy, Please know I am so sorry for your loss. I do live in Traverse City and if you would like to spend time sharing stories of your brother and your family and friends from the 60's and 70's, I will be here to listen.  
Your GPHS friend,  
Ardana Kirsch Titus

**Ardana Kirsch Titus** - September 11, 2014 at 01:30 PM



“ Ardana... thank you. Will get in touch.

**Nancy** - September 11, 2014 at 02:18 PM

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“ Nancy:

Thanks for posting those family photos that bring back a rush of 60s memories. My strongest of your mischievous older brother are Beach Boys blaring from the 3rd floor on Berkshire and fast cars. Profound condolences for this loss to you and your family.

Jane Combrinck-Graham - Philadelphia, PA

**Jane Combrinck-Graham** - September 11, 2014 at 12:45 PM



“ Janie.... what is your phone number. Would love to catch up or contact me . Don't want to post my number here but I live in Riverview Michigan. Tried to get you a few years ago and couldn't connect.

**Nancy** - September 11, 2014 at 02:17 PM

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“ Thank you for a great life well spent, and condolences to the family. "Brothers All" KSA Olivet 1966.

Lee Kramer - Harbor Springs



**Lee Kramer** - September 10, 2014 at 04:49 PM

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“ Dear Nance and Barbara,  
My most heart-felt sympathy to both of you on Matt's passing!  
Some of my fondest memories are of growing up with Matt as our next door neighbor. Matt and my brother Otto and I were the only "little kids" in our neighborhood on Berkshire Road. Therefore we were constant playmates. Both Matt and I had a huge fascination for unlimited hydroplanes. I'll never forget the fun we had letting our imaginations run wild in the "boat" his mom put together for us in the Houghton's back yard. They named it "Miss Sacroiliac," (of course) and we spent hours together competing in imaginary Gold Cup and Silver Cup races, just like we'd seen on the Detroit River. Matt usually "drove," and I was his "riding mechanic." It was even more fun when Matt's mom joined us and provided a running "color commentary." I wasn't surprised that Matt never lost his love for powerboat racing. I treasure my growing up next door to the senior Houghtons, and having Matt as a childhood friend. Even when we were kids, we knew that Matt was a very special person and friend.  
I hope you find some comfort in knowing that Matt's life was indeed a full one, well lived.  
My love to you both.  
Elsie Scherer Jocz

Elsie Scherer Jocz - September 09, 2014 at 11:57 PM

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“ Barb,  
  
Our prayers and thoughts are with you. We were so sorry to hear of your loss.  
  
God bless,  
John & Theresa Fochtman

John & Theresa Fochtman - September 07, 2014 at 10:48 AM

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“ I've never felt so comfortable with someone trying to drown me in a dunk test. Dr. Matt had a way of putting you at ease with confidence and a friendly manner. It is to my detriment that I didn't have the pleasure of knowing him as well, or as long, as others.  
I hope you and Frenchy are sharing stories Dr. Matt  
  
Steve Lawrence ( Ex. Victory Team )

steve lawrence - September 06, 2014 at 10:00 AM

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“ Matt made the world a better place. I was one of his patients for many years. He always made the time to see me when I felt that I needed medical assistance. I worked in the medical field for over 35 years and had contact with many of the top physicians and surgeons around the world. There were very few who had the practical diagnostic skills which I saw in Dr. Houghton and there were none who could match his love of working with people. Thanks for the memories!  
Tom Brodhagen

**Tom Brodhagen** - September 05, 2014 at 05:37 PM

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“ We were Blessed to have this "One of a Kind" person in our lives for so many years. I am sure Our Lord is saying "Job well done my son"  
Rest in Peace Dr. Ho as you will be missed by many!  
Dave and Diane Taghon

**Dave and Diane Taghon** - September 05, 2014 at 10:01 AM

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“ Matt was a tremendous asset to the Medical Staff for Special Olympics Michigan's Winter Games. Thousands of athlete participants, and dozens of medical staff members were the beneficiaries of his kindness, knowledge and dedication for many years.

**Pete Kelly** - September 05, 2014 at 08:02 AM

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“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



**Steve Dillon** - September 04, 2014 at 10:55 PM



“ I remember meeting Dr Matt, aka "Angel one" back in 1986; He invited me to help with medical rescue services for the Championship offshore Powerboat race in Key West. Meeting Dr Matt I remember thinking, this guy is not like any other Doctor that I had ever met. He was very passionate about safety and had a very personal relationship with the race teams and his staff. During the championship event the race claimed the life of a young racing star Mark Lavin, I remember Dr Matt was devastated. Several months passed and I received a phone call from Dr Matt telling me that the Lavin family had created the "Mark Lavin Memorial safety foundation" Dr Matt was was the president and was putting together a medical rescue team, he asked if I would like to join his team... Well Ya!, I spent the next 20 years following Dr Matt around the world, 160 races in 53 different city's in 24 different countries.(the stories I have..)I can tell you he loved what he did, heaven knows the hours he spent preparing/planning, writing on his clipboard..., organizing trips (Marian's help). He was unselfish, always trying to make sure everyone had what they needed no matter time of day or night. With all the "hats" that he wore Family Doctor, Race Doctor, Medical Examiner, Sports Doctor and husband to Barbie it amazes me how he found the time to be loved by so many. Dr Matt was so much to so many, what a great void to be filled. Dr Matt you will be missed, but never forgotten! Angel 4

**Steve** - September 05, 2014 at 12:10 AM



“ Matt was a friend of Channel 29 and those of us who were privileged to know him. He delivered our firstborn son. A life well lived, Matthew.

**gale andrew younger** - September 04, 2014 at 09:11 PM



“ Thank you for all the sacrifices you and your family made over your career as a community physician and Medical Examiner. Dr. Houghton was a faithful servant 24/7, 365 days a year to both the living and the dead. Doc was intelligent, beloved and truly cared about serving his community. My thoughts and prayers to his wife Barb, his family, dedicated staff and those close to him.  
Wendy Trute

**Wendy Trute** - September 04, 2014 at 03:57 PM



“ My heart goes out in sympathy to Doc's wife and to Vicki and Marion. What a team!!!! I only found Doc Houghton several years ago and didn't grow up with him like so many of you folks did..but instantly I KNEW.....this is a rare gem of a healer. I was missing him SO much when we got word that he would be closing his practice...but this is just the biggest void in our community I can think of. We will all do him the honor, I am sure, of remembering how generous, devoted and calming this unique man was.....and how he has left a little bitty part of himself in each and every one of us whose life he touched. I miss you,Doc...I hope your spirit is free as a bird!  
Love and Peace~ Diane Gordon

**Diane Gordon** - September 04, 2014 at 03:46 PM

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“ What a great physician who gave to everyone. He provided home visits to the elderly in our community physicals to the local youth and team physician. I was also very lucky to work with him in the thankless job of Medical Examiner where he lost many hours of sleep and will be missed by many communities. We have truly been blessed to have him in our communities.  
Ann Holmes

**Ann Holmes** - September 04, 2014 at 01:40 PM

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“ I loved him with all my heart. He was a special person. God wrap you loving arms around the family and friends. God Bless Pammi that's what he called me, Baatz

**Pam** - September 04, 2014 at 12:37 PM

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“ yes dr Houghton was a good and sweet dr while I was living there he took care most of our family my sincer condolences to the family (shelly baatz)

**shelly baatz verdun** - September 04, 2014 at 11:18 AM

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“ Matt was an incredible volunteer for Special Olympics. He cared for thousands of Special Olympics athletes during the years he volunteered at our State Winter Games. He was a compassionate leader for our large medical team, a member of our SOMI family and a generous soul. We will all greatly miss him and remember him always.

--Lois Arnold, President and CEO of Special Olympics Michigan.

**Lois Arnold** - September 04, 2014 at 09:08 AM

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“ Could not have said it better mikeMartin

**Mike** - September 04, 2014 at 11:09 AM

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“ I have never not had Doc Houghton in my life, as far as I know. I grew up in Empire and always took for granted that I could head up the street and get all fixed up, no matter the ailment. Doc was exactly what anyone would expect from someone with that small town title, but so much more. He was always so calm, cool, knowing, and caring about whatever you came to him to fix. I trusted him without question, even when he threw my brand new shoes into the garbage telling me just how terribly made they were. My mom took us to his office when we were sick or hurt. I went to him whenever I needed medicine or a physical adjustment. I brought my boys there when they were sick and I needed to feel that they were safe. Generations of care. Our world will not be the same without you. We love you Doc!! 'Thank you' does not convey our sentiment. Eternally grateful for your presence in our lives. I'll miss you!

**Sarah Dilley** - September 04, 2014 at 12:34 AM

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“ I know that there will be stories remembered from each and every patient that had the good fortune to have Matt for their doctor, enough to fill a book, a very large book. My entire family began seeing Matt when he first arrived and though all of the many visits we always claimed that he had magical powers because no matter what was wrong with any of us we always came out of his office feeling much better because he gave 1000% of himself, including a cock-eyed sense of humor. We send our condolences to Mrs. Houghton, as well as Vicki and Marion. Diana Moss and Fred Schubert, III. Altavista, VA

**Diana Moss** - September 03, 2014 at 11:48 PM

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“ I remember meeting Matthew years ago and have always been touched by his love of Barbie and how dedicated he was in his practice of medicine. Doctors like Matthew are few and far between. I was honored to call him "cuzzin". Hugs to Barbie. Michele Gerard-Fabbie

Michele Gerard-Fabbie - September 03, 2014 at 09:42 PM

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“ Dr Matt was one of a kind. Not only was he a doctor to many but a friend to them as well. My deepest sympathy to his family. My family and I started seeing him in 1979. He was there to make everyone feel better . Whether it was to listen , shoulder to cry on or what ever else. He will be greatly missed. Again my sincerest sympathy to Barb and her family, as well as Vicky and Marian .

Toni Hillier



Toni Hillier - September 03, 2014 at 09:25 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the family, friends and loved ones of Dr. Matt. My late grandmother always spoke highly of Dr. Matt and he was very kind to my family and I considered him like part of my family. When my grandmother Carol passed away two years ago my mother and I stopped at Dr. Matts office to let him know. He has known me since I was a small child and I am now getting ready to turn 27.



Kirstin Gilland - September 03, 2014 at 09:09 PM

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“ Abeyta Family lit a candle in memory of Matthew Amos Houghton Jr, D.O.



**Abeyta Family** - September 03, 2014 at 09:09 PM

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“ My heart is saddened with the news of Doc’s passing. My family was with him from the time he opened his doors in Empire with Beth and the Apothecary next door with Carol & Mike where our prescriptions were filled all those years ago until the very end of his practice in Glen Arbor with Vic and Mar (at both locations on Lake Street and Western Avenue). I specifically remember a time when I lived in Colorado and called Doc because I was not getting proper care of a strep throat and I was in a lot of pain and he offered some very valuable advice for me to get relief and start to heal. I also had a conversation with him (while I was still living in Colorado) regarding my son’s pediatrician whom had told me I was going to give my son brain damage by giving him cow’s milk at a young age (2 months). Doc called the pediatrician and gave him a “good” ear full. I never had problems from that pediatrician again. I pray for comfort, peace and strength for Barb, Vic and Mar and the rest of the Houghton Family. May you find comfort in the arms of those who loved Doc so very much, peace in the knowledge that Doc is no longer hurting and strength to lead you through the tough days ahead. Much love to you all. The Strang Family

**Dorene Strang** - September 03, 2014 at 08:58 PM

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“ Dr. Matt was a very special physician in the eyes of my family. I remember my parents, always commented about how Dr. Matt really knew how to listen to them...he listened with his heart as well as his ears and could pick out the message and address their concerns...including the unspoken ones. His compassion and kindness facilitated trust between himself and his patients. My favorite picture was of him holding our newborn daughter that he helped deliver and the tender expression on his face.  
He was very dedicated to his community and gave so much to us all. He will be greatly missed and my heart and prayers go out to Barbara, his family and friends as well as the entire Glen Lake community.  
Casey Carney

**Casey Carney** - September 03, 2014 at 07:35 PM



“ Errol and I were so sorry to hear about Matt. We knew him for many years on the Offshore Racing circuit. We are very grateful for all of the advancements that were made for the safety of all of the racers because of Matt. Barbara we send you love and prayers.

Love,  
Barbara and Errol Lanier  
"Systems Race Team."

**Barbara Lanier** - September 03, 2014 at 03:06 PM

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“ Doc was the best. He helped my daughter when she was barely 6 months old and became our family doctor until his health caused him to retire. Earth lost an angel...heaven gained angel. Keep watch, Doc, as always. You will be missed.

**Donna Dawson and Shayna Marsh** - September 03, 2014 at 10:32 AM

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“ OUR DEAR BARB AND FAMILY OF OUR VERY SPECIAL DOC.  
HE TOOK CARE OF ME FOR YEARS. HELPED ME THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES. HE WAS ALWAYS KIND AND LOVING. HE TREATED YOU LIKE YOU WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD AND ALWAYS HAD THE ANSWER TO HELP YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. YOU ARE NOW A VERY SPECIAL ANGEL THAT I WILL BE TALKING TO. KNOW YOU HAVE TIME TO HOP AROUND TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF US. YOU WILL BE MISSED.  
WE LOVE YOU.  
MAY GOD BE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THIS TIME. AS YOU TOLD ME YOU WILL BE AROUND TO HELP US OUT TILL YOU KNOW WE ARE OK.  
GOD BLESS  
AGGIE (DEERING) OCHS

**AGGIE OCHS** - September 02, 2014 at 07:49 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:42 PM



“ Doc's Empire Office and the Apothecary was to the left. Wow, what memories this brings back. :)

**Mike & Dorene** - September 03, 2014 at 09:04 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:23 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:22 PM

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**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:21 PM

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**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:21 PM

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**Nancy Houghton** - September 02, 2014 at 04:20 PM

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“ Doc, Thank you for over 40 years of taking care of our family. It was 3 generations of the Cox family you treated and helped us through tough times. It was so easy to talk to you. No matter what you would make us feel better just talking with us. We will always remember your kindness, you came to visit Ma in her last days so Dad wouldn't have to take her out. We miss you and you will have a special place in our hearts. Sending prayers to Barb and your family.  
Love, Bob and Diane Cox

**Diane Cox** - September 01, 2014 at 07:13 PM

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“ We visited the Beckett clan 2 summers ago. Barbie's dad, Jim Beckett is the last living child of the Beckett family, my mother was his sister. On Saturday we went for cocktails at Matthew's office. I could see then how important Matthew's practice was for him. He combined genuine caring with a nice sense of humor. With family this is always appreciated.

I also remember how much Matthew loved volunteering for the international Speedboat races. He was a unique person and will be missed by many.

Much love to you all,  
Sue and John Twiggs  
Marshfield, Wisconsin

**sue twiggs** - September 01, 2014 at 05:36 PM



“ Am so grateful to hear Jim Beckett still walks amongst us! Another genuine guy!

**Steve Barber** - September 04, 2014 at 02:10 PM