

Remembering DR. DANIEL S. RENNER & a Legacy of Bethany Service



Bethany College mourns the passing of Dr. Daniel S. Renner '54, at the age of 91, on February 25, 2025. Renner was a part of a strong family legacy of Bethanians who have honored the school with their time, treasure and talent. The son of Dr. R. Richard '17 and Jennie Steindorf '22 Renner, Dan was one of four siblings – Robert '48, John '50, and Mary '58 being the others – who attended Bethany.

While at Bethany, Renner was a three-year letterman and two-year captain for the tennis team, winning the West Virginia Intrastate Tennis Singles championship in 1953. Dan was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, the human relations club, the West Virginia Academy of Science, and the international relations club. Renner graduated magna cum laude before

moving on to attend the University of Michigan Medical School, where he received his doctorate. After completing an internship at the Cornell Medical Center in 1957-58, he served a Thoracic Surgery Residency at Case Western Reserve University. Renner would go on to practice Thoracic and Vascular Surgery for 36 years in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Most recently, prior to his retirement, Renner was the chairman of surgery and thoracic surgery at Hillcrest Hospital/Cleveland Clinic.

“Dr. Dan, the bandage man” was a gifted surgeon who dearly loved his wife of 36 years, Marlane, his family, including his four children, Richard, Ann, Karen, and Steven, and his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Marlane and Daniel's love for each other, Bethany, and God will be remembered by friends and family alike.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Dan's niece, Jane See '83, and her husband Edward '83, a Trustee for the College, graduated from Bethany. His brother Robert's children, Reid, Tamara, and Tara were also here during that era.

The Renner Foundation, founded by Dan's father and continued by

his heirs, has especially supported higher education, as well as health planning and hospitals, environment, conservation, and wildlife. It has established professorships and scholarship funds, including having funded millions of dollars for various causes at Bethany. This includes a major grant, which in 1970, made possible the complete remodeling of the Bethany House, which had been erected in 1948. Subsequently, after years of making gifts through their family foundation, Dan and Marlane began to personally endow multiple scholarships. “Bethany has been a huge part of the Renner family for three generations, and it is fitting that we remember a school that has blessed our family so fully,” Marlane said at the time.

“Dan and Marlane's generosity in favor of future Bethanians is an example of how we as alumni can continue the work of Alexander Campbell and the greats that came here before us, whether we are fourth- or fifth-generation Bethany legacies, or first-generation college students,” said Deno Emili '78, executive director of planned giving and major gifts.

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