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Jack Walker

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Marion LaVelle Walker, Jack, was born in Columbia, MS, to parents of strong Mormon faith. His childhood would forge a man with firm moral character. Jack and Suzy married before medical school. They have five children and five grandchildren. Suzy also has a degree in law and is a major strength behind this man.

Jack attended Brigham Young University, where he played some American football. He later returned as the team physician of their nationally ranked team. Medical school at the University of Tennessee, a neurosurgical residency in Phoenix, and a fellowship with the 3Hs at Sick Children's in Toronto would follow.

With his first associate, Bruce Storrs, Jack established pediatric neurosurgery in Salt Lake City. Today, Jack Walker, Doug Brockmeyer, and John Kestle have one of the largest and finest centers for pediatric neurosurgery in the world.

Dr. Walker is a Professor of Neurosurgery and Chief of the Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the University of Utah School of Medicine. His colleagues have established a lectureship in his name.

As a pediatric neurosurgeon, he has contributed much to our specialty. He is a skilled surgeon and is loved by his patients and their families. Whether separating conjoined twins or lending his services to the people of Honduras, he brings an expertise we all admire.



His fascination with technology is legendary. At a recent meeting, Jack brought an extra suitcase to carry two video cameras, two digital cameras, and a computer. This fascination has also led Jack to contribute to the development of surgical lasers and endoscopy.

Jack played a major role in the development of fellowship training. He has rewritten the bylaws of many of our organizations. He has been Chairman of the Pediatric Section of the AANS, Chairman of the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and is at present the Chairman of the Accreditation Council for Pediatric Neurosurgery. Jack is a past president of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons and now of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

At times, there is a refreshing adolescence about Jack. The combination of skill in pediatric neurosurgery and avidity for sport has led to worldwide travel as a visiting professor, but only if golf or fishing is available. He was

invited to teach a course in India, so Jack planned a trip to Australia's Great Barrier Reef to fish, "because it's on the way!". This reveals how his love of fishing clouds his understanding of geography.

I do not ever remember Jack truly angry, occasionally upset, maybe. Like the time on the golf course, when after three unsuccessful attempts to hit the ball out of the sand

trap, Jack leaves the ball in the sand and walks away mumbling, "If it wants to stay in the sand, then let it stay in the sand!".

We are fortunate that individuals like Marion Walker, a colleague and friend, are available to lead our Society. His knowledge, skill, and sense of humor have added much to the pleasure we share in pediatric neurosurgery.