

Dr. Robert Salata, class of 1970 (posthumously)



Class of 1970 graduate, Dr. Robert “Bob” Salata cherished his time at Cardinal Mooney High School, where he formed lifelong friendships, developed his leadership skills, and embodied school spirit as a student-athlete. He played both football and basketball and served as class president. Upon graduation, Bob received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, but after 18 months chose to pursue his calling in medicine and transferred to the University of Notre Dame.

While at Notre Dame, Bob met his wife, Jody, beginning a marriage of 49 years. Together they raised four sons and were blessed with eleven grandchildren, with a twelfth on the way. A devoted father, Bob found time to coach his sons’ grade school basketball teams.

Dr. Salata earned his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University and completed his internal medicine residency at University Hospitals in Cleveland. He later completed a three-year fellowship in infectious diseases in Charlottesville, Virginia, before returning to Cleveland, where he served as Chief of Infectious Diseases for 19 years and later as Chairman of the Department of Medicine. His career was marked by a deep commitment to medical education, research, and global health, including clinical and research work in Kampala, Uganda.

In gratitude for the education that shaped his life, Bob and Jody endowed scholarships at Cardinal Mooney for students pursuing the sciences and at Notre Dame for students studying global health. Dr. Salata passed away suddenly in August 2024, leaving a legacy of faith, service, and dedication to others.