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IN MEMORIAM



Ernest J. Petruccio, MD, 1928-2008

ON OCTOBER 20, 2008 Ernest J. Petruccio, MD, passed away. He was born in New Jersey December 27, 1928. He graduated from Columbia College in 1951 and New York Medical College in 1955. After his pediatric residency he entered the Air Force and was assigned to Mather Air Force Base.

I first met Ernie at pediatric clinical meetings. His devotion to learning and keeping up with the latest medical advances were very obvious. Early on, I asked him if he would consider becoming my partner. He said, "No, we are going back East." I urged him to remember that I asked him first.

When he and Helen decided to stay here, he joined me in practice for the next 30 years. There was never a stressful moment in the relationship.

Helen, Ernie's wife of 50 years and a fellow pediatrician, preceded him in death. He leaves their two children, Karen Dudley and Richard Petruccio, and four grandchildren. He also leaves many others whose lives he touched.

His son, Richard, expressed these feelings:

"His life's work was pediatrics, where he cared for the many children he saw as well as helping their parents raise them properly. He had a wonderful ability to listen attentively and think carefully before speaking. For many years he taught at the UC Davis School of Medicine where he received the Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award in 1982 and 1984. His extraordinary humbleness never allowed him to speak of this recognition.

"He leaves behind a legacy of caring and kindness that not only greatly impacted our lives, but also the lives of everyone he met. After he retired, he continued to touch the lives of those who needed help from the community by volunteering at Loaves and Fishes. We miss him very much and pray that he is smiling down upon us, alongside our Mom, knowing what a wonderful gift he was to the world he left behind."

I echo Richard's sentiments. I could not have asked for a better friend and partner, and I will miss him always.

— Dennis Marks, MD

