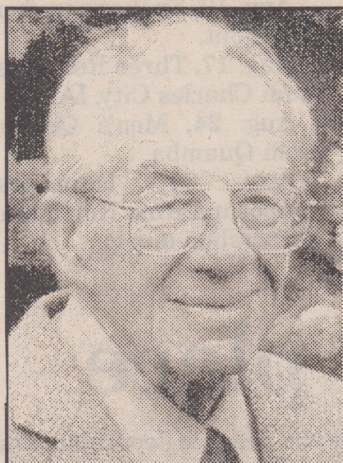


Obituaries



Dr. Ralph Mach

Ralph F. Mach, M.D.

Dr. Ralph Franklin Mach, 80, died at his home in Pine City on Saturday, May 18, 2002.

He was born on May 28, 1921 in New Prague, MN, to Charles W. and Hildegard (Rosendahl) Mach. He attended grade school at St. Wenceslaus Catholic School in New Prague and graduated from New Prague High School.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the College of St. Thomas in 1941 and went on to the University of Minnesota Medical School, graduating in 1945. While in medical school, Ralph was inducted into the U.S. Navy and served several years until his discharge. Later, he was called to serve during the Korean War. He spent two years as captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

On June 23, 1945, Dr. Mach married Geraldine Faricy in Grand Rapids, MN. They made their home in Foley, where he practiced medicine for two years, then moved to Rush City for five years and then to Pine City, where Dr. Mach served the community until his retirement in 1988.

He had his own clinic until 1979, then joined the

Pine City Area Clinic until his retirement. Dr. Mach also served as medical director at Lakeside Nursing Home and as Pine County Medical Examiner for many years.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and served there as lector and Eucharistic minister. He also helped with the Health Badge in Boy Scouts for many years.

Dr. Mach was an avid fisherman and small game hunter, spending much of that time with his five sons and grandsons. His greatest joy was being with his children and grandchildren. He also walked his golden retrievers daily for many years. He had a 1 p.m. tee time at the Pine City Country Club with many of his dear friends, until poor health forced his confinement at home. He was under hospice care for 14 months prior to his death.

Dr. Mach is survived by his wife, Gerri, sons, Byron (Butch) and his wife, Nancy, of Pine City; Tom and his wife, Kathy, of Little Falls; Pat and his wife, Lisa, of Bloomington; Chris and his wife, Cheryl, of Shorewood; daughters, Margie and her husband, Leslie Kotek, of Champlin; Katy and her husband, Al Mattson, Maple Grove; Liz Mach, of Maryknoll Mission in Tanzania, Africa; and Mary and her husband, Michael Long, St. Paul. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, a sister, Mary, and husband, John Fitzgerald, New Prague.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Ruth, and her husband, Jerry Svoboda.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, May 21 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pine City. The Rev. Michael J. Lyons was the celebrant, with Maryknoll priests serving as concelebrants.

Music was provided by Cindy Novy, Joanne and Kevin Cahill and Teena and Paul Bacigalupi.

Casketbearers were his grandchildren, Eric Kotek, Alison Mach, Brian Mach, David Mach, Megan Mattson and Gretchen Mach.

Honorary casketbearers were Bob Carlson, Bob Leibel, Ray Arimond, John Kozisek, Bill Kessler and Bill Lones.

Military honors at the gravesite were provided by the Minnesota National Guard of Pine City. Karl Greden was the bugler.