

TRIBUTE TO "DR.JOE"
JOSEPH G. ANTONY SR., M.D.

"Dr. Joe", 63, died April 27, 2000, at home in Eureka surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with pancreatic duct cancer.

He was born on June 25, 1936, in Lawton, Okla. The son of a general practitioner, he decided while going on house calls with his father that he too someday wanted to be a doctor. When he was 8 years old the family moved to Medford, Ore. He was a graduate of Medford High School where he was a football star. He then graduated from Santa Clara University in 1958 and the University of Oregon Medical School in 1963. He became a flight surgeon for the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict. His pediatric internship was served in Fort Benning, Ga., and his residency was in El Paso, Texas. After seven years in the Army, during which he earned the Army Commendation medal, he worked for Kaiser Permanente for one year before moving to Eureka in 1970. He was the heart of Eureka Pediatrics - a favorite among patients, parents, and staff for nearly 30 years because of his humor, loving ways, and his ability to befriend and relax even the most frightened patients. He would tease, laugh, and cry with his little friends and always included a big hug.

In 1984 he married his wife, Cheryl, and they blended their families into one. The challenge of raising seven children with their pranks, problems, and everyday shenanigans kept them busy. Their home was always open to friends and full of love. Joe could make a game out of anything, even moving the "green slag" from one freezer to the next. He would joke about the times they had five boys in that dreaded category of "male under 25" for car insurance or all seven children in college or professional school at once resulting in three extra mortgages.

His biggest sense of pride was his children and their lives and accomplishments - he was so proud to know they all turned out to be caring individuals with love for their fellow man. He loved to "pick rocks" for abalone and enjoyed his getaway house in Shelter Cove. He never went out there without 20 loaves of BIG LOAF for his friends the foxes and deer.

With his wife as Mrs. Claus, he was Santa at Glen Paul School and for many friends and family for the past 10 years. In 1999 he had planned to retire from Eureka pediatrics but became ill before this could happen. He showed us all true bravery and dignity throughout his illness. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Cheryl; his children and their spouses, Dr. Susan Antony Harris and husband, Jerry of Portland, Ore., Dr. Joseph G. Antony Jr., of Eureka, Dr. Matthew Antony and wife, Amy of Portland, Ore., Martin Antony and wife Diana of Sacramento, Dr. Jennifer Lundmark, of Sacramento, Dr. David Lundmark and wife, Erica of Los Altos, and Andrew Lundmark and his wife Melissa of Fort Collins, Colo. He was "Grandpa Joby" to his seven grandchildren, Lindsay, Timothy, and Thomas Harris, Benjamin, Jacob and Olivia Antony, and Aaron Lundmark. He is also survived by his sister Sherry Nutting and her husband, Ron of Portland, Ore.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Joseph T. Antony and Florence Arden Antony; and his siblings, Tony Antony, Paul Antony, and Terry Reich.

Dr. Joe was a member and former president of the Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society, a longtime representative of the Northern California Physicians Council, a former member of the staffs of General and St. Joseph Hospitals, and a previous chief of staff at General Hospital. Dr. Joe's family is compiling a scrapbook of his life and would appreciate notes from his former patients and families describing his effects on their lives. Please send to: Dr. Joe Scrapbook. P.O. Box 6744, Eureka 95502.

Special thanks to Dr. Cory Spencer, his staff and lab employees, and to Hospice of Humboldt, especially Lynn and Audrey.

In lieu of flowers please send memorials to: Hospice of Humboldt, 2010 Myrtle Ave., Eureka 95502, or Humboldt Area Foundation, P.O. Box 99, Bayside 95524, for purchase of equipment overlooking his favorite abalone field at Shelter Cove.

PERSONAL NOTES ON THE LOSS OF JOE ANTONY, SR.

On April 27, 2000, with the passing on of Dr. Joe, our community lost a truly great Physician. I had the distinct pleasure of working with Joe for the last 20 years as his partner. In the early years, when it was often just Joe and I working in our busy practice, we often saw more of each other than we saw of our respective spouses. Joe was more than my partner. He was my mentor, friend, confidant, and often my crutch. I am not unique in this regard. He was this and more to many of us on the Medical Staff and in the community.

Dr. Joe was the epitome of what a Pediatrician should be. He was loving, compassionate, dependable, knowledgeable, and a superb communicator. At Christmas time, Joe and Cheryl would always dress up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus, to play Santa for our disadvantaged children at Glen Paul School. Joe never really needed to dress for the part. Joe was Santa Claus, or as close as you could come to a child's perception of what Santa would be like 365 days a year. Put him in a room with children, and they would all be attracted to him like nails to a magnet. Joe did equally well with parents. Parents uniformly felt safe when Joe was looking after their most valuable possessions - their children. He could handle the most anxious or frustrated mother with disarming smile, and then instill confidence that he would make her child well - and he would. It was sometimes hard to be partner to someone like Joe. I never felt I could quite measure up. But what a great partner he was! Joe could be up for 24 hrs. straight taking care of a critically ill neonate, and then arrive in the office only to find his schedule packed with 35-40 patients, with more calling in by the minute wanting to see him. As exhausted as he might be, the instant he opened the exam room door to the next patient, all the fatigue was gone. He made each family feel special and that they had his undivided attention, interest, compassion, and knowledge, whether they were his first patients of the day or the 40th. He made every mother feel like her child was the only patient he had. What a Physician!

I will miss Joe terribly. Going to the office will never be quite the same without his smiling face, crazy practical jokes, and his indomitable spirit which permeated the building. Humboldt County has truly lost a great Physician, and I a great friend. An Irish Blessing to you Joe -

By Chris Cody

**As you go
May the road rise up to meet your feet,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and
The rain fall softly upon your fields, and
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Joe Antony will be greatly missed by all of us in the medical community. Joe was my partner and friend for the last 5 years, and I will never forget his lighthearted good humor, his genuine concern for the people around him, and his dedication to the children of Eureka. I think what I loved the most about Joe was that he always had a joke, a funny story or a kind word for whomever crossed his path. He loved to joke with his patients. I remember one story he told me, that epitomized his sense of fun. A strapping young man who had been Joe's patient all his life came in for a physical prior to entry into the police academy. After the exam was finished, Joe looked at the boy and said jestingly, "I want to know something before I pass you. If you pull me over for speeding, will you give me a ticket?" The boy looked back to Joe and said, "Joe you've been my doctor all my life, and whenever I saw you, you always gave me a sucker. So, yes, I'd give you a ticket, but I'd give you a sucker too."

Joe chuckled over that one all day. Joe, we miss you.

By Emily Lambert, M.D.

Editorial Note: There are plans to build a children's park in Shelter Cove in Joe's memory. A Fund has been set up with the Humboldt Area Foundation, P.O. Box 99, Bayside, CA 95524.