



IN MEMORIAM

LEROY J. NELSON, M.D.

Dr. Leroy (Bud) J. Nelson died March 31, 1982, in a tragic avalanche while on a skiing vacation at Alpine Meadows, California. His 11 year old daughter, Laura, also died in the same accident.

Dr. Nelson, known by every one as "Bud," was born in Akron, Ohio on December 4, 1942. Bud graduated from Purdue University in 1965 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. His next four years were spent in Philadelphia where he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1969. He completed his internship at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh the following year and then returned to Jefferson for a residency in Orthopaedic Surgery, electing to enter the five year program, which he completed in 1975. After residency, Bud served two years in the United States Navy as an orthopaedic surgeon on Guam, Mariana Islands. He practiced with the Frederick C. Smith Clinic in Marion, Ohio, then in 1979, he relocated to his "long-dreamed-of" northern coast of California. It was in Eureka, California that Dr. Nelson was developing a busy private practice in orthopaedics with an emphasis on hand surgery. Bud became Board certified in Orthopaedic Surgery in 1978 and was just inducted into the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons at the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans.

Dr. Nelson was a greatly respected member of the medical community as well as the City of Eureka. He dedicated much effort towards improving child health and in this cause aided in the development of the Vector Health Program-Hand Rehabilitation Center. He also worked diligently with the Child Health and Disabilities Prevention Program administered by the Humboldt County Health Department. He was also active in the Rotary Club, Easter Seal Society, and the American Heart Association. He campaigned vigorously for the passage of legislation which would provide greater safety for small children who ride in motor vehicles. As a physician, he was appreciated by his patients as being genuinely concerned for them and their needs. He was truly dedicated to the altruistic goals of medicine.

Bud always had a passion for running. In 1964 he was an alternate member of the Track and Field Team representing the United States in the 1964 Olympics. Until his untimely death, he remained "in training" and ran in numerous races annually.

Bud was a warm and friendly man known for his deep, abiding love for his family, home and community. He is survived by his wife, Katy, and their 6-year-old son, Eric.

Lawrence S. Guinney, M.D.