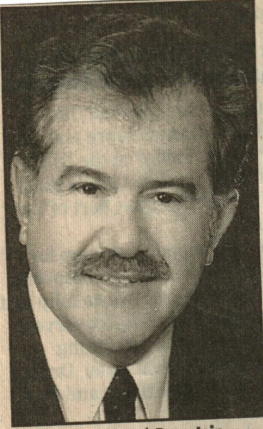


Arizona Daily Star
Sunday Feb 12, 2006
Page B4



Eugene (Gene) Bernstein
respected Tucson dentist for 35 years, beloved husband, father and grandfather, and avid University of Arizona Wildcats supporter, died at his home Feb. 9 after a valiant year-long struggle with cancer. He was 71.
In 1960, while serving as a captain in the United States Air Force, Gene and his wife Joan planned a trip to the Grand Canyon, stopping in Tucson first to visit friends. They fell in love with the city, and rather than proceeding to the Grand Canyon, returned to Gene's base in Oklahoma, and he requested and was granted a transfer to Davis Monthan Air Force Base. After completing his military service, he opened his general dentistry practice in which he continued until his retirement in 1993.
Gene considered his patients in his practice as part of his family, daily demonstrating a rare blend of caring, compassion, and generosity -- and easing patients' pain and anxiety throughout the procedures with wit and humor.
Gene treated everyone who walked into his office who needed dental care. For those who couldn't afford to pay, he graciously and tactfully accepted "in-kind" payments that ranged from pies to pecans to meals in restaurants. No one was turned away.

He viewed the community, too, as his extended family, providing hundreds of hours of dental care to residents of Handmaker Geriatric Center.

Born in New York City and reared in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Gene traveled to Pennsylvania State University for his undergraduate study, receiving his B.S. degree in 1956. There he was an active member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, R.O.T.C. and the Hillel Foundation, where he met his wife of 49 years, Joan Rapoport.

For his graduate studies in dentistry, Gene chose Case Western Reserve University's College of Dental Medicine in Ohio. There he received his DMD in 1960. Immediately following his graduation he began active duty in the United States Air Force. Throughout his years in practice he was a member of the Southern Arizona Dental Society and the American Dental Association.

Beyond his family, his practice and his involvement in community activities, Gene had another passion: the Wildcats. For more than three decades he and Joan held season tickets to UA football and basketball games, often traveling out of state to watch the Wildcats play.

In all, he loved life, his family, the outdoors and animals - daily living ethically, responsibly, fully and happily. He leaves behind a bright mosaic of memorable actions, experiences and relationships that will comfort, sustain and be a source of continuous pride to his family, friends and former patients.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; daughters, Debra, Tobi (Tanya) Horkey; son, Howard; daughter-in-law, Tammy; grandchildren, Eva, Samantha Horkey, Blake, Grant and Brock; sister Felice Kahn; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Beth and Sheldon Clare; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Bring Funeral Home at 6910 E. Broadway on Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the University of Arizona Cancer Center at:
Arizona Cancer Center/UAF, 1515 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85724-5024.

BERNSTEIN, Eugene