

WALTER WILLIAM TUNNESSEN, JR., M.D.

On November 11, 2001, WALTER WILLIAM TUNNESSEN, JR., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died at home of malignant melanoma. He was born on July 25, 1939, in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, to Walter and Grace Schaller Tunnessen. He was a pediatrician, educator, and, at the time of his death, Senior Vice President of the American Board of Pediatrics. An internationally recognized clinical pediatrician and influential figure in pediatric medical education, Dr. Tunnessen was widely known for his teaching talents and gentle personality.

During his academic career, he received numerous teaching awards at each of the institutions he served. Prior to his death, he was named the recipient of the 2002 Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr. Leadership Award, given to an individual who has been a role model and who has contributed to the future of pediatrics over and above what is expected in the normal course of professional activities. A Past President of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, he published over 200 papers on pediatric topics and his book, *Signs & Symptoms in Pediatrics*, was published in multiple languages and editions. He served on the editorial boards of *Contemporary Pediatrics*, *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, and *Advances in Pediatrics*, and was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Dr. Tunnessen was a graduate of the Mining and Mechanical Institute in Freeland, PA; Lafayette College in Easton, PA; and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his pediatric training at the Childrens' Hospital of Philadelphia and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where he later joined the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics, after serving in the Air Force. Subsequently, he served on faculty of the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and later returned to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Childrens' Hospital of Philadelphia as Associate Chair for Medical Education. He was an active member of the American Board of Pediatrics serving as an examiner and on Board committees, until becoming the Senior Vice President in 1995.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Nancy Layton Tunnessen; his mother, Grace Schaller Tunnessen; his son, Walter W. Tunnessen III, and daughter-in-law, Aviva Zyskind; his daughter, Anne Tunnessen, and son-in-law, Robert Good; his granddaughters, Lydia Good and Nerissa Tunnessen; his brother, Robert Tunnessen, and sister-in-law, Carol Tunnessen; his mother-in-law, Louise Layton; his brother-in-law, Rodney Layton, and sister-in-law, Patricia Layton; two nieces; four nephews, and their families.

A memorial service will be held at Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill on November 16, at 2 P.M. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to honor Dr. Tunnessen's devotion to the care of children by making memorial contributions to the American Academy of Pediatrics Fund for Children, PO Box 1606, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009, or to UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or to the Mining and Mechanical Institute, Freeland, PA 18224. Arrangements are by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas, Raleigh, NC.

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