



## **George J. Gerneth, M.D., FACS** **June 18, 1928 – August 7, 2023**

George was born in Verona where his father served as the Burger or Mayor of the town for 16 years. He and his younger sister, Jane Garboden, M.D., both became physicians, George graduating from the University of Pittsburgh and Jane from the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia. George chose medicine believing that it would be an honorable way of contributing to society.

After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1953, George completed his internship in 1954 at St. Francis General Hospital in Bloomfield. The Korean War had just ended, and George volunteered to join the U.S. Air force. George was stationed in Japan and served as a flight surgeon for three years and served as the commanding officer of the medical facility on base.

Following completion of his military experience, he decided to specialize in ophthalmology and completed a three-year ophthalmology residency at the Veteran's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Following residency, he entered clinical practice, initially with Dr Jay Linn, Jr. for 3-4 months and then joined Phil Grana, M.D. in Braddock. When Dr. Grana retired, George moved his practice to Forest Hills with Art Fleming, M.D., joining him in practice.

When Art relocated his practice, nearby, they parted business on amicable terms. Art practiced in Forest Hills in the same neighborhood and George and Art and George often had lunch together. George then recruited John Mikulla, M.D., in 1978. John retired from the practice in 2016. Jean Harwick, MD joined the practice and worked with George for about 9 years. Joel Brown, M.D joined the practice and remains as the senior partner at Forest Hills location. During George's retirement George stayed in touch with the practice, communicating with Joel frequently.

George enjoyed teaching residents in ophthalmology and volunteered to oversee the glaucoma clinic at Falk clinic for many years. He was a surgical tutor both at the Eye and Ear Hospital and the Oakland VA hospital and had an appointment as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Gerneth was passionate regarding the ethical practice of medicine and appropriate utilization of medical services. He chaired the Quality Assurance Committee at the Eye & Ear Hospital and served a consultant for provider relations for the Pennsylvania Ophthalmology Society, working with advocate, Norman Edelstein, M.D. resolving reimbursement issues.

George was a leader in organized medicine and served as President of the Allegheny County Medical Society in 1993. George also served as President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in 1982 and received their Distinguished Service award in 1987.

Following the national trend to separate the two subspecialties, in 1990, George served on the incorporation and reorganization committee that separated the Ophthalmologists and the Otorhinolaryngologists into two different academies in Pennsylvania. George served as President of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society from 1981 - 1983 He was a member of the Medical Eye Care Foundation.

George relaxed at Laurel Mountain Park near Ligonier, PA. There he cultivated a friendship with fellow ophthalmologist Dorothy C. Scott, M.D. and her husband Glenn. Both George and Dorothy inspired many young ophthalmologists to become involved with local and state societies to help oversee the delivery of cost effective and ethical ophthalmologic care.

George's wife, Eileen, pre-deceased him by seven months. Both lived at Longwood in Verona-Oakmont. George is survived by 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

~ Al Biglan, M.D

*I would like to thank many who have helped to construct this obituary. Norman Edelstein, Joel Brown, Jane Garboden, Nadine Popovich, and Shara Taylor who inspired this effort.*