



Cosmo R. Castaldi

November 12, 1920 - March 12, 2011

CASTALDI, Dr. "Doc" Cosmo Raymond, 90, of West Hartford, passed away on Saturday the 12th of March. Born on November 12, 1920 in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. He lived the last 37 years of his life in West Hartford, CT.

Cosmo is survived by his sister Xenia in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, by his wife Anita and their four children: Joseph, Daniel, Peter, and Diane, as well as seven grandchildren, and two great-grand children.

Cosmo received his Doctorate in Dentistry from the University of Toronto, and his Masters in Pediatric Dentistry from Northwestern in Chicago. While in Chicago he met Anita, his wife of sixty years. Anita was a nurse at Children's Hospital, and they had a mutual patient who insisted they should meet, and the rest, they say, is history.

He practiced dentistry for several years before devoting his life to teaching, holding positions at Indiana University '52-56', University of Alberta '56-65', University of Manitoba '65-68', and Oregon Health Sciences University '68-69. In 1969 he was selected to create the new Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the UCONN Health Center, where he remained as chairman until his retirement in 1986. After retirement, he spent ten more years donating much of his time and energy to the dental clinics at UConn's John Dempsey Hospital. Cosmo was a pioneer in the advocacy of fluoridated drinking water

and in the development of many specialized methods in dental treatment for children with disabilities. He truly loved his profession and was a beloved mentor and colleague to his friends and fellows internationally.

Doc's other great passion in life, apart from dentistry, was hockey. He began playing as a child back in his hometown of Sudbury, Ontario. He often spoke of playing pick-up hockey in the street with frozen road apples. His love of hockey eventually led to his playing on the Canadian Air Force team in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he served as a Captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force Dental Corps during World War II. His team-mates were mainly NHL players who were attached to the various services and also stationed in Halifax. In the winter of 1969-70 he began as assistant coach of the All-star Midget team in the Hartford Amateur Hockey Association, then located in South Windsor. At the time there were no town leagues so players came from all over; he often left the house two hours before practice in order to pick up children who had no other way to get to the practice rink. Weekends were spent travelling to different towns and cities, and every year he and Head Coach Frank Pendergast would haul the team to Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada for the annual "shellacking" at an invitational tournament, followed the next week by the equally difficult challenge of the New England Tournament. Doc's goal was always to push his players to excel, and to improve the coaches' knowledge of what it took to be champions. His crowning achievement, in amateur hockey, was to see the team ultimately win the New England tournament.

In addition to coaching amateur hockey, he was also a part owner and scout for the Sudbury Wolves, a Junior A team from his old home town. He was instrumental in identifying several Hartford-area players who ultimately played in this semi-professional league.

It was clear from his dedication to youth hockey and dentistry that he believed

in hard work and perseverance in pursuit of his goals. He brought his considerable energy and passion to his stance on the use of mouth guards to reduce dental injuries. This ultimately led to his involvement with the American Society for Testing and Materials ASTM. His research and subsequent testimony at national and international conferences on mouth guards, face shields, skate blades, and rink boards were instrumental in the adoption of standards for kids hockey, many of which are taken for granted today.

In his home life, Cosmo was an amateur painter and played the saxophone and clarinet. He studied painting at the Banff School of Fine Arts during the summers in Alberta. Another interest was the small apple orchard on the family property in West Hartford, which led to his involvement in the Connecticut Pomological Society.

Cosmo's interests in dentistry and hockey kept him in contact with people from around the world. He once lectured at a University in East Germany; behind the iron curtain. He made several trips to the US Naval base in Naples, Italy to advise the military dentists and the local dentists on what they could do for children. He travelled to Sweden with a group from Connecticut to play in an old-timers tournament. Back home Cos and Anita frequently hosted international students studying dentistry and other subjects at UCONN.

He was a great man who impacted so many. Join us in expressing our thanks to a husband, father, and mentor who accomplished so much.

A celebration of Cosmo's life will be held on Wednesday the 30th of March, at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Gathering hours are from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and testimonials by family and friends will begin at 1:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers and other remembrances, in memoriam contributions may be made to UCONN FOUNDATION-CR CASTALDI LECTURESHIP FUND 10 Talcott Notch Road Suite 100, Farmington, CT 06032, or to the WEST HARTFORD YOUTH HOCKEY P.O. Box 270695, W.Hartford, CT 06127.

Tribute Wall



“ I will never forget the opportunity that you & George Brass gave me to be who I am professionally today. Your enthusiasm & commitment to the children we serve was unwavering. Maxine & I are forever grateful for the interest that you took in us as a very young couple upon our arrival in Connecticut. You will be forever in our hearts & thoughts.##imported-begin##Robert Diamond##imported-end##

May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Everytime I encounter a difficult dental patient, I think of how Dr. Castaldi would treat a difficult patient at the Burgdorf dental Clinic- almost 25 years later. My sincere condolences to the Castaldi Family.##imported-begin##Margita Ulmanis Meyers##imported-end##

April 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Anita, we send our love and prayers to you and the family. Since 1984, to this day, every time I treat a patient, I do as if Cos is looking over my shoulder to make sure I'm doing it right. He will always be my mentor and he taught me how to take excellent care of my patients. From my first day of residency, he instilled in all of us a responsibility to do our best. We also had a lot of fun. He is always with me and he will be missed by us all. David and Pam Hasson##imported-begin##David Hasson##imported-end##

April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Doc" was my first hockey coach. He was inspirational. Being around him always made you feel good. He was always smiling. He gave me confidence and made me feel that anything was possible. I think of him often. Thank you "Doc"###imported-begin##Jim O'Donnell###imported-end##*

April 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Castaldi Family, I would like to extend my condolences on the passing of "Doc". He was a great man! Even though I have not seen him or many of you recently, there are many fond memories in the bank of happy times at the Castaldi household. I wish all of you the best in carrying on without "Doc". Sincerely,David###imported-begin##David Sopel###imported-end##*

March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Peter and family,*

Very sorry to hear of your loss. My sympathies to you and your family.###imported-begin##Mark Liljedahl###imported-end##

March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr Castaldi was a great teacher to me. He gave me the hardest time as a young foreigner student but he taught me so much, I still remember him everyday while trying to do "excellency in dentistry" as he always wanted! He was a great man. We will all miss him###imported-begin##Annie Vierrou###imported-end##*

March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To Joe and the entire family - We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Sheila & Jim Kimball##imported-end##

March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Cos was my mentor when I started working with HECC in 1988. A great teacher and researcher, he was extremely helpful to me. A great man has left us.##imported-begin##Dr. Alan Ashare##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Cos was Andrew's dept.head and mentor for over 16 years. We admired his determination and skill and believe he established a superb dept. under often trying circumstances. He was always very supportive of our family. We miss him.##imported-begin##Andrew & Deirdre Poole##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Cos and Anita welcomed us into their home and around their dinner table often during the 3 years we spent in Connecticut while Kelly attended UCONN. We were always greeted like family at the Castaldi’s West Hartford home, sometimes with a Canadian flag flying from the porch. Besides thanksgiving dinners both Canadian and American! at the Castaldi’s, some of our fondest memories include a day hike along the Appalachian trail with Cos, Anita, daughter Diane, and their granddaughter and picnicking on a warm summer evening with the Castaldis listening to the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood. Where ever we were with Cos and Anita, there was no shortage of conversation as Cos had a wealth of great stories about dentistry, hockey and his and Anita’s travel adventures. We’ll miss you Cos.##imported-begin##Dawn and Kelly Wright##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thoughts of heartfelt sympathy are with Dr.Castaldi’s family.Wishing them strength and comfort.

Ramon & Mirza Castillo##imported-begin##RAMON
CASTILLO##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We will all miss you!##imported-begin##Michael Healey##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ A character in the true sense of the word. Everyone who encountered Cos came away better from the experience. Sometimes they just didn't realize it right away.##imported-begin##Dr. and Mrs. William Wrobel##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We always enjoyed your company "in and out" of dentistry. Thank you for being so helpful in our sons' hockey experience. Your enthusiasm for hockey and dentistry was indeed infectious.##imported-begin##Michael and Anita Marcotte##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Cosmo Castaldi, Uconn Health Center Founder, Sports Medicine Leader and fabulous teacher of quality dentistry and pedodontics influenced all of us greatly. He was both my good friend and colleague for many years beginning at Indiana University. We will miss him##imported-begin##Charles Burstone##imported-end##

March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Cos was a great mentor to his Pediatric Dental faculty including mein Connecticut. He coached us, made us look good and enabled us to succeed.##imported-begin##Norman Tinanoff##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you Dr. Castaldi for your years of dedication and service to the UConn School of Dental Medicine. Our condolences go out to the Castaldi Family, as well as our gratitude for a great man and teacher.

Liz Whitty, The UConn Foundation##imported-begin##Liz Whitty##imported-end##

March 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM