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Tuesday, December 23, 2008

**Dr. Paul H. Pokorny, Troy**

## Dentist's expertise vaulted his status among peers

Mark Hicks / The Detroit News

Dr. Paul Pokorny was such an expert dentist, even some of his colleagues sought him for treatment.

"If you were a dentist and you needed something done, that's who you went to," said his wife, Rita. "He was the dentist's dentist,"

Dr. Pokorny died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, at home. He was 55.

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Born Dec. 9, 1952, in Ecorse, he grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from a Catholic preparatory school before attending Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Dental School.

He later earned a master's degree from Indiana University.

Specializing in prosthodontics, Dr. Pokorny practiced in Troy and Clinton Township -- creating crowns, bridges and dentures for thousands of patients.

His enthusiasm endeared him to many.

"Everyone knew he loved dentistry," Rita Pokorny said. "It wasn't just a job to him -- he loved it."

A member of a national dentists' academy and the International College of Dentists, he also was active with dental societies in Macomb and Oakland counties and served as a clinical instructor at his alma mater.

Another love was water sports. A member of the Bayview Yacht Club since 1976, Dr. Pokorny sailed in more than 30 Port Huron-to-Mackinac-Island races, and won several times, his wife said. He also enjoyed scuba diving in Hawaii, the Bahamas and Mexico.

Whether sailing or diving, "he liked the peace and tranquility," his wife said.

Dr. Pokorny also was a leader of local Boy Scouts, and spent years coaching a teen basketball team with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Bloomfield Hills. "The kids loved him," his wife said.

For years, he also was a season ticket-holder for the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers -- making his family fans, as well. "We all went together," his wife said.

Other survivors include sons Donald and Aaron; three grandchildren; sisters Valerie Pokorny and Patrice DuFour Sullivan; and his mother, Patricia.

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