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







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Wednesday, February 18, 2009

**Dr. Robert Rizk, Troy**

## Dentist was 'perfect' with patients or students

Mark Hicks / The Detroit News

Whether instructing dentists-in-training or treating patients at his office, Dr. Robert Rizk approached tasks meticulously.

"When he made his preparations for crown and bridges, they were right out of the textbook," said Dr. Fred Wassermann, a former student and patient. "He had a level of excellence that was unparalleled. He was a perfectionist."

Dr. Rizk died Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. He was 76.

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Born July 2, 1932, to Lebanese immigrants in Detroit, he grew up on the city's east side, attended Pershing High School and graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in 1958.

After practicing in Detroit and Southfield, he relocated to Bloomfield Hills. While there, Dr. Rizk also taught at his alma mater and chaired its crown and bridge department, associates said.

In the classroom, "he always talked to you like you're a colleague -- inspired you to excel," said Dr. Timothy Mayer, a former student who went on to practice in the same building. "I considered him the ultimate teacher."

Dr. Rizk also lectured nationwide and is credited with developing a dental syringe, said his daughter, MaryAnn McKenna. Between duties, he also volunteered at clinics because he "wanted to help people who didn't have the means," she said.

Outside of work, Dr. Rizk loved golfing, reading, listening to jazz, sketching pictures, and his cats Sami and Kalo. "He was creative," McKenna said.

He also was a devoted friend -- once helping one research a medical condition and accompanying him to treatment in another state. "He was very compassionate," said longtime friend Rudy Oliver.

Other survivors include a daughter, Kathleen Rizk; a son, Robert; three grandchildren; two sisters, Dolores Radtke and Gloria Bonacorsi; a brother, Raymond; and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Timothy, and a brother, Ronald.

Memorials may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

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