



Dr. Harry O. Specht

June 15, 2016

Dr. Harry O. Specht, 90, of Sarasota passed away peacefully on June 15, 2016, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in St. Louis, MO, he enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and the Korean War. While studying at Indiana University's School of Medicine he met the love of his life, Doris Van "Barney" Barnes. They married and moved to Pearl Harbor, HI, where he served as a lieutenant and medical officer on ship and at the base hospital. After his honorable discharge they moved to Sarasota in 1955 where together they raised a family and operated a successful family medical practice for the next 35 years. During that time he served on the board of directors at Sarasota Memorial Hospital where he also was chief of staff in the mid-'60s. He was also a member and officer of many local clubs and service organizations including Sarasota Sertoma, YMCA, the First United Methodist Church of Sarasota and the Sarasota Yacht Club.

Outside of his family and medicine, he enjoyed handball, camping and attending season performances of the Sarasota Orchestra. His lifelong passion was tropical fish and he was a member and past president of the American Killifish Association and Sarasota's Coastal Aquarium Society. He also joined other hobbyists on many exciting trips to the jungles of South and Central America to collect rare and exotic tropical fish.

After retiring in 1990 he stayed active traveling with "Barney" and enjoying a full life with his four children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by "Barney," his wife of 63 years, and is survived by his son Stephen of Sarasota, daughter Julie Studer of Sarasota, son David of Littleton, CO, and daughter Amy of Bradenton.

A celebration of his life will be held at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota at 2 p.m. on July 23, 2016.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc., or Tidewell Hospice, Sarasota.

Tribute Wall

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“ *My thoughts are with the children of Dr. Specht, may your many memories bring you comfort today and in the many days to come. May your prayers bring you the peace of our great God of comfort with His promise to guard the heart. Philippians 4:6,7 My sincere condolence to all of you.*

R. Faust - June 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM