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DR. G. JOHN ANKENMAN

Dr. John Ankenman passed away peacefully in Vancouver, BC, in his 97th year.

John “Anke” was born in the family farmhouse near Listowel, ON, where he acquired a strong work ethic and sense of purpose. He was admitted to the Queen’s University Faculty of Medicine at the young age of 16, and upon graduation in 1949, moved west to intern at the Vancouver General Hospital. After a three-year adventure as a family doctor on Saltspring Island, Anke completed a urology residency at the University of British Columbia, beginning specialty practice in 1958.

Anke had a large surgical practice at Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital, and later at University Hospital. He held many leadership roles over the course of his long and successful career, including UBC Urology Program Director, President of the BC Urological Society, The NorthWest Urological Society, and the Western Section of the AUA. He was a CUA member since 1963 and served on the board as a member at large from 1974–77.

Anke had a prodigious capacity for work, and an even greater one for fun, fine food, and drink. He taught a great many urology residents, and we fondly remember his annual summer get-togethers at his beach house in Point Roberts, WA. “Anke’s annual” was always anticipated with excitement for the fun that

fishing and cruising on his boat, *Nephron*, provided.

When I was a resident, within a few minutes of our first encounter and a bit of casual conversation between cases, Anke quickly deduced that he knew of my mother from his childhood! It turned out that his parents were beekeepers and they sold honey to my maternal grandparents, who were also farmers in an adjacent county. Canadian urology is such a small community!

After retiring from clinical practice in 1993, Anke traveled extensively to all continents except Antarctica, and excelled at gardening and photography. He was a pillar of the annual UBC residents’ graduation wind-up dinner, and one could always count on him to tell a wonderfully irreverent urological joke or two, accompanied by his trademark crooked smile and that twinkle in his eye!

Above all, Anke was a family man. He was pre-deceased by Jo, his wife of 50 years. She was his constant companion. Anke was very proud of his four sons and extended family of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces. Although he struggled with mobility issues in his final few years, he maintained all his cognitive faculties right up until his passing.

Anke’s was truly a life well lived

Contributed by Dr. Andrew MacNeily



Dr. Ankenman on June 20, 2017, at the annual UBC resident graduation ceremony.

CUAJ honors its members and friends who have passed away. We invite colleagues of the deceased to submit brief remembrances. Please limit your notice to 200 words. Send your notice to journal@cua.org or fax it to 514-395-1664.