

This tribute was written by Implant & Prosthodontic Associates and shared with the ACP:

Susan E. "Betsy" Brackett, DDS, MS, FACP

Sept. 26, 1953 – Sept. 11, 2026



It is with tremendous sadness that we share the unexpected passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Susan E. Brackett "Betsy".

Dr. Brackett was truly a pioneer in Oklahoma dentistry. When she graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1978, she was the only woman in her class and just the second woman to graduate from the College in its history. At a time when a career in dentistry was rarely considered an option for women, Dr. Brackett forged ahead—and ultimately helped change the profession for the generations of women who followed her.

Her remarkable career took her from private practice to education and back again. Following dental school, she joined the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry before returning to the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, where she became a longtime faculty member in Fixed Prosthodontics. She earned her certificate in Fixed Prosthodontics and Master of Science degree from the University of Iowa in 1987. The following year, she presented her original research to the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics and received the prestigious Stanley D. Tylman Award for novel research. In 1993, she achieved Diplomate status with the American Board of Prosthodontics.

Dr. Brackett was also a respected author and educator, serving as co-author of the award-winning textbook *Fundamentals of Tooth Preparation* as well as *Fundamentals of Fixed Prosthodontics*, 3rd Edition. In 1998, following many years in academics, she joined Implant & Prosthodontic Associates, where she continued to make an enduring impact on patients, colleagues, and the profession.

Her contributions have been recognized throughout her career. She received the University of Oklahoma Regents' Alumni Award in 2009 and, in 2013, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of Oklahoma. That same year, the American College of Prosthodontists Education Foundation honored her with its Founders Society Award, making her the third recipient of this distinguished honor.

Her service to the American College of Prosthodontists was extraordinary. Dr. Brackett served on numerous committees and task forces, represented Oklahoma in the ACP House of Delegates, served nine years on the ACP Education Foundation Board of Directors, and spent many years in ACP leadership. She served as Secretary, Vice President, and President-Elect before culminating her years of service as President of the American College of Prosthodontists from 2016–2017.

Her dedication to the ACP and to prosthodontics continued long after her presidency. In 2019, she received the ACP Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding service to prosthodontics and the College. In 2021, she received both the ACP President's Award, recognizing service above and beyond what was expected, and the Dan Gordon Lifetime Achievement Award—one of the College's highest honors, recognizing contributions at the highest level to the College and to prosthodontics, dentistry, science, and the health professions.

Even after receiving these extraordinary honors, Betsy continued to give of herself. In 2025, the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry Alumni recognized her with the Steven K. Young Distinguished Service Award for her leadership, mentorship, and lasting impact on the dental profession.

But a list of accomplishments doesn't fully capture Dr. Brackett.

She was a teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend who believed deeply in giving back and helping others succeed. Her influence can be seen not only in the profession she helped shape, but in the countless dentists, students, and colleagues she encouraged along the way. For many within the American College of Prosthodontists, Betsy was more than a respected leader—she was a trusted friend, generous mentor, and someone who genuinely cared about the people around her.

After retiring from active practice, Betsy and her husband, Gregg Wadley, devoted much of their time to philanthropy and to supporting organizations and causes throughout Oklahoma. Her generosity extended well beyond dentistry, including significant support for the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Ballet, Northeastern State University, and the First Americans Museum. Her commitment to the arts was particularly evident through her support of Oklahoma City Ballet, whose principal facility bears her name as the Susan E. Brackett Dance Center.

We at Implant & Prosthodontic Associates were especially fortunate to have Betsy as part of our practice and our history. Her impact on IPA, on Oklahoma dentistry, on the American College of Prosthodontists, and on all of us who had the privilege of knowing her will not be forgotten.

Betsy leaves behind an extraordinary professional legacy, but perhaps her greatest legacy is found in the people she taught, mentored, encouraged, and inspired. She opened doors for

others, gave generously of her time and talents, and devoted her life to making her profession—and her community—better.

We will miss her friendship, her wisdom, her generosity, and her unmistakable presence. We extend our deepest condolences to Gregg, her family, and to the many friends and colleagues who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Her contributions to prosthodontics will endure. Her influence will continue through the people she mentored and the profession she helped shape. And her memory will remain a cherished part of the American College of Prosthodontists and the many lives she touched.

Funeral services will be held at the First Americans Museum (FAM) in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 10:00am.