

## Dr. Bentley A. Merrick

November 02, 1960 – July 02, 2022



Bentley Atwood Howe Merrick (Ben), beloved father, husband, son, brother, friend, and dentist, passed away on July 2 in Burlington, VT, after experiencing a sudden cardiac event.

He was 61. Ben was born in Morristown, New Jersey, and raised in nearby Chatham, the oldest of three children of Betty and Ben Merrick. His childhood was filled with family time where he learned to love swimming and tennis. Additionally, he spent time in his father's home office dental practice where his love for dentistry first began.

Ben attended Middlebury College where he met the love of his life Susie in 1979 when they were both freshmen. They were married in 1984.

Ben graduated from Middlebury in 1983 and continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, following in his father's footsteps.

After graduating first in his class from Penn in 1988, he worked in his father's Chatham, NJ, dental practice for four years, an experience that they both treasured and one that allowed Ben to recognize his love of prosthetic dentistry. He pursued further training in this specialty at New York University College of Dentistry Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics, graduating in 1993.

Ben and Susie moved to Vermont upon graduation where Ben opened his own prosthodontics practice and was warmly welcomed into the Vermont dental community. Ben's skills as a prosthodontist and his genuine care for patients quickly became known, and his South Burlington practice – Vermont Prosthodontics – grew over the years to help many. Always very humble, Ben valued his patients, his staff, and his Vermont dental community.

His love of practicing dentistry led him to become a Clinical Instructor at the University of Vermont Medical Center General Dental Practice Residency in 1997. He found tremendous meaning in working with the next generation of dentists, including his daughter Katie, who was part of the 2021-2022 dental residency program. Ben was a lifelong learner and was proud to be a member of numerous professional dental organizations.

Ben is survived by his wife of 38 years Susie; his children Katie and Janie; his parents Betty and Ben Merrick of Essex Junction; his siblings Jenny Vecchio (Gerard) of Tolland, CT, and Charles Merrick (Kathleen) of Essex Junction; his parents-in-law Bud and Judy Rose of Red Bank, NJ; his nieces Sabine Vecchio Baldwin (Andy) and Lexy Vecchio; numerous much-loved sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins; as well as his beloved kitty Pepper. The family hopes to invite family and friends to gather as a community in the autumn, Ben's favorite season, to share stories and memories.