

Kenneth Vernon Fortman

June 19, 1938 - October 5, 2018



Dr. Kenneth Vernon Fortman, 80, of Ashland, Oregon, formerly of Rochester, Minnesota, passed away on Friday, October 5, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Services will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019 at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston, Minnesota.

Dr. Fortman was born on June 19, 1938 in Worthington, Iowa, the son of Cletus and Fidelis Fortman. He grew up on his family's farm in Farley, Iowa. He graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and the Loyola University School of Dentistry in Chicago, Illinois. He was married June 3, 1961 in New Vienna, Iowa. Dr. Fortman served for 21 years in the US Navy and was ranked as captain. During that time he completed two tours of duty aboard the USS Oriskany during the Viet Nam war and served as Commanding Officer of the dental group at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in California. Dr. Fortman also served as director of the Dental general practice residency program at the University of Southern California for many years. He was board certified in prosthodontics and provided prosthetic dental and facial reconstruction prosthetics for cancer and traumatic facial injury patients, and was well known for his care and support of his patients. He was a member of the NRA, MOAA, American Legion, American Dental Society, and Cal Dental Society. He enjoyed fishing, target shooting, and reading.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, daughters Sheila Craun (Scott), Julie Romney and Suzanne Fortman; four grandchildren, Jeffrey Craun (Caroline), Kathryn (Romney) Spott (Zach), Christopher Romney and David Romney; and a brother, Dr. Gene Fortman (Barb) and one great-grandson, Orson Craun.

He was preceded in death by grandparents Mr. and Mrs. John Simon, and parents Cletus and Fidelis (Simon) Fortman.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Mayo Clinic Cancer Research/Dr. Manish Kohli, 200 First Street S.W., Rochester, Minnesota, 55905.