

Ernest Beckwith "Bim" Mingledorff

Ernest Beckwith "Bim" Mingledorff, D.D.S., 92, of Springfield, GA and Bryn Mawr, PA passed away peacefully in Springfield on Jan. 11.

Ernest was born in Springfield and graduated as valedictorian of Effingham Academy in 1940. He graduated from North Georgia College in 1943 with a degree in Biology and then attended Emory University School of Dentistry on a specialized U.S. Army Training program where he earned his D.D.S. degree in 1946.

After completing dental school, Ernie proudly served his country as a Dental Officer in the U.S. Army, first by serving on the Hospital Ships USS Comfort and the USS Mercy and later by being stationed at the U.S. Army 14th Field Hospital in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Ernie retired from the Army as a Colonel.

After practicing dentistry in Atlanta from 1954-1956, he joined the Faculty of Emory University School of Dentistry as an Associate Professor of Prosthodontics where he taught from 1956-1965. In 1965, he was appointed Professor and Chairman, Fixed Prosthodontics and Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics program at Temple University School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, PA where he taught until his retirement in 1987.

Ernest also served as a dental consultant for the Central Office of the Veterans Administration and at the VA Hospitals in Wilmington, DE and Philadelphia, PA and the U.S. Army and Navy Dental Services in Philadelphia.

Ernest was predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Joyce Mingledorff, his father, Ernest "Cap" Mingledorff, his mother, Mary Beckwith Mingledorff, his brother Walter Mingledorff and sister, Gretchen Mingledorff. Ernest is survived by his daughter Ann and son-in-law Mike Barry of Atlanta, his beloved granddaughters Elizabeth and Caroline, four nieces and three nephews.

Ernie was a lifelong, avid student of history, especially military history and the history of Georgia, and was particularly fascinated with genealogy. Ernie was a member of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, the Georgia Salzburger Society and the Military Order of the World Wars.

He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the American College of Prosthodontics.

To his students, Ernie was known as a gifted and passionate teacher and mentor who strove to inspire and bring out the best in each and every one of his students.

To his friends and family, he was known for his incredible sense of humor, his generosity and his love of cooking, entertaining and scotch.

He was a fiercely proud and loving father and grandfather who always encouraged his daughter and granddaughters to be anything that they wanted to be. He will be greatly missed.