

# Paul H. Darsie

*October 2, 1916 — May 29, 1999*

Paul Harold Darsie, a physician on the staff of Cornell University in the Department of University Health Services, died on May 29, 1999, at the age of 82. He was born October 2, 1916 in Lexington, Kentucky, the youngest of seven children of a third-generation Protestant minister. Paul's early years were spent in Lexington and Cynthiana, Kentucky. He went on to obtain his Bachelor's degree in 1938 from Washington and Lee University, and his M.D. degree in 1942 from the University of Rochester.

In college, Paul achieved exemplary grades in a broad spectrum of academic studies, while actively participating in a sports program that included basketball, tennis and track. Furthermore, he not only earned all his college expenses, but was able, by the time he graduated *magna cum laude* and with a Phi Beta Kappa key, to repay his parents completely for all the funds that they had advanced him toward his education. (At a time, before the computer age, when few college students knew how to type, Paul's skills as a typist and even as a stenographer, won him many income-producing opportunities.)

Paul interned at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, then completed residences in internal medicine at the University of California Hospital in San Francisco, and at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York.

He initiated his medical practice in Cooperstown, New York, where he was affiliated with the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. After two years, Paul moved to Ithaca to join the staff of the recently formed Student Health Service at Cornell University, where he served for 34 years until his retirement in 1980, with the rank of Professor of Clinical and Preventive Medicine, Emeritus.

Paul derived much pleasure and professional satisfaction from his medical practice at Cornell. He found that the ambiance of teaching and learning that surrounded him was stimulating and motivating. From his earliest days in medical school, he was convinced that a medical encounter was never complete unless the persons seeking advice or treatment learned something about their problems and the ways to correct them and to prevent their recurrence. Crowded university curricula have seldom allowed time for formal courses in health education, but Paul found that his one-to-one contacts with his student-patients were ideal times to impart useful information as well as treatment. He was always a good listener and explainer, and the students who have sought his advice or treatment over the years have appreciated his talents.

Paul enjoyed his life among the Finger Lakes. He made good use of all the advantages that his surroundings afforded him. He loved fishing, hunting and sailing, and practiced these activities with his father as well as with his sons. He took an active part in the planning, building and maintenance of his home. (He was as methodical in the care of his home as he was in his medical practice. For example, when he decided that his house should be repainted every four years, he proceeded to paint one of the four sides of the house each year, to complete a four-year cycle.) He was proud of his skills as a gardener, and often-brought fruit and flowers from his garden to the clinic to share with his colleagues.

Paul was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, where he has served as a deacon and elder. He has been a compassionate and caring visitor to shut-ins and the elderly. He also was a member of the City Club of Ithaca, and of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Men's Garden Club.

Paul is survived by a loving family: his wife of 52 years, Peggy; three sons; a daughter; eight grandchildren; and a sister.

*Leroy K. Young, Allyn Ley*