

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**  
**NORMAN BLANK**  
**(1925 - 1998)**

Norman Blank, Emeritus Professor of Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine, died August 22, 1998 at his home in Los Altos Hills, attended by his family and close friends. He was 73 years of age, and had spent more than 36 years on the faculty at the Stanford Medical School.

Dr. Blank was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on July 28, 1925 and grew up in Cleveland Ohio. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1948. He received his M.D. from the same school in 1952, and served his internship at the University of Chicago, where he met his beloved wife and life-long companion Donna. Dr. Blank did his radiology residency at the University of Minnesota, and stayed on as Instructor in Radiology and Assistant Chief of Radiology at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Hospital.

In 1962, soon after the Stanford Medical School moved to Palo Alto, Dr. Blank joined the small but enthusiastic radiology faculty as an Assistant Professor. From that time on, Dr. Blank established himself as the premier thoracic radiologist at the Medical Center, and one of the great teachers in the medical school. His clinical skills were outstanding, and teaching medical students and residents was his passion.

He was the author of a leading textbook in radiography of the chest entitled "Chest Radiographic Analysis", and was a founding member of the prestigious Fleischner Society in 1970, subsequently becoming its president. This international organization, formed to promote the subspecialty of pulmonary radiology, is comprised of the outstanding scholars and clinical and research aspects of pulmonary disease and roentgenographic techniques. In recognition of his conscientiousness in the clinical care of patients, he was nominated for the Alwin C. Rambar award for excellence in patient care in 1986, a rare honor for a diagnostic radiologist.

His contributions to the education of generations of medical students and radiology residents are legendary. He won the Kaiser Award for excellence in clinical teaching, an award which is given by the medical students, an astounding eight times: 1973, 1977,

1978-1981, 1984 and 1990. He also won the Arthur L. Bloomfield Award in recognition of excellence in the teaching of clinical medicine three times (1980, 1988, and 1992), an award voted on by the graduating medical school class. Even after taking early retirement in 1988, Dr. Blank continued his teaching of medical students as the director of the radiology clerkship. His methods were socratic, personal, and rigorous. This provocative and stimulating teaching style made an indelible impact upon his students, and yet even more memorable was his warm, philosophical humanism.

It was only fitting that his career of devotion to medical student teaching culminated with his appointment as Director of Medical School Admissions in 1986, the duties of which he discharged superbly until his illness required him to step down this year.

In addition to this very full professional life, Norman Blank was devoted to his family and friends. He loved to garden at his home, was an avid reader of a wide range of topics, and loved to spend time with his grandchildren. He was an active member of Temple Beth-Am in Los Altos Hills for 35 years. He is survived by his wife Donna, their five children and spouses and seven grandchildren including Roberta Blank and Thomas Yocom, (Alicia and David), Elizabeth Blank and Peter Wilcox (Nicholas and Max), Rebecca Blank and Jerry Anderson (Jackson), Lowell and Diana Blank (twin girls expected), and Jeannette and Rainey Meszaros (Sierra and Samantha). In addition, he is survived by his sisters and brothers and their spouses including Ethel and Sol Neben, Sanford and Cynthia Blank, Rosalind Gross, Gertrude Schmukler, and Jerry and Rachel Blank, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Norman Blank was a giant in the history of Stanford Medical School, and will be remembered for his dedication to his patients, devotion to his students and love of his family. He will be missed by scores of friends, colleagues and students.

Presented to the Senate of the Academic Council on March 4, 1999.

Committee:

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