

OBITUARY

7-22-96

Denio assisted first heart transplant here

Martin J. Denio was the primary anesthesiologist for the city's first heart transplant at St. Luke's Medical Center in 1968.

He and his wife, Theresa, also raised a national champion Great Dane.

Martin Denio died of heart and kidney failure at his Town of Eagle home Saturday. He was 70.

He was one of the first anesthesiologists at the hospital after it opened in 1956 and helped develop the cardiac program there during the 1960s.

Born Jan. 8, 1926, to Martin and Amellio Denio in Fargo, N.D., he was a senior in high school and running the elevator at St. John's Hospital there when he met Theresa Pfeifer, a Minnesota girl who had come to Fargo in 1942 to help her family work off an older brother's hospital bill.

He joined the Navy at age 17

and became a corpsman on a hospital ship in the South Pacific. After World War II he enrolled at Marquette University Medical School. Martin and Theresa were married in 1947.

He joined St. Luke's for a 35-year career and helped make medical history with the city's first heart transplant on Oct. 21, 1968.

He co-founded both the Cudahy and Elkhorn kennel clubs and was a licensed show judge. In 1964 the Denios' dog, Fury, was the American Kennel Club's top Great Dane.

Martin Denio is survived by his wife and their daughters, Sandra Hanson and Suzanne Rose, all of the Town of Eagle.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. today and 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday at Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, 10121 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa. The service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Martin J. Denio, M.D.

EAGLE — Martin J. Denio, M.D. of Eagle, died Saturday, July 20, 1996, at his residence. He was 70 years old. Martin was born in Fargo, N.D. on Jan. 8, 1926, to Martin Sr. and Amellia (nee Polasik). On July 5, 1947, he married Theresa A. Pfeifer in Fargo.

Martin served in the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman on the hospital ship U.S.S. Samaritan in the South Pacific during WWII. In 1952, he graduated from the Marquette University Medical School. Martin was instrumental in developing the Heart Anesthesia Program at St. Lukes Hospital in Milwaukee, where he practiced for 35 years. He was a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Milwaukee, the founder of the Cudahy Kennel Club, a member and co-founder of the Elkhorn Kennel Club, and a member of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists.

Survivors include his wife Theresa, two daughters Sandra (Mark) Hanson and Suzanne (Stephen) Rose, both of Eagle; two grandchildren William Emslie and Elyse Rose; a brother Denny (Lucille) Denio of Garden City, N.Y.; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Reginald and two sisters Adeline Anderson and Elenor Denio.

A requiem high Mass will be held on Wednesday, July 24 at 10 a.m. at the Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, 10121 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa. Entombment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Milwaukee. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. with a rosary at 7 p.m., and also on Wednesday from 9 a.m. until the time of Mass.

Memorials to Our Lady of the Rosary Church or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.