GINO ALDO DENTE M.D.

GINO ALDO DENTE, M.D. SOUTH BURLINGTON - Dr. Gino Aldo Dente, 94, Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology at the University of Vermont's College of Medicine, peacefully passed away on Aug. 14, 2011, at his home in South Burlington with his wife, Carmen, and many family members by his side. Born in Barre on April 12, 1917, he was the son of the late Basilio and Maria Dente, who immigrated to this country from Locana, Italy in 1901. Gino's early childhood years revolved around the family and working in their Italian grocery store. There he learned the value of hard work and business ethics, lessons he would carry throughout his life. He was educated in Barre schools and graduated from Spaulding High School in 1935, as president of his senior class. Gino had an innate curiosity and quest for knowledge, and like his older brother before him, had his sights set on a career in medicine. He entered the UVM College of Medicine as one of two students completing the two-year pre-medical course, and graduated from the UVM College of Medicine in 1941. Dr. Dente interned at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I. and Green Point Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. In June 1942, as World War II escalated, he enlisted in the armed forces. He served in the South Pacific, with the 24th Medical Battalion. He saw combat in Dutch New Guinea, Leyte, Mindoro and Mindanao. His medical unit was part of General McArthur's medical battalions. Gino became a member of the Cleaning Company, a Mash-like unit where he performed triage and medical treatment to the wounded soldiers. After the war ended, Dr. Dente was sent to Japan to the island of Skikoku to investigate the death of some 400 civilian Chinese who had been captured by the Japanese and were found to have died from starvation. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1946 after bravely serving his country for four years. Like many of his generation, he spoke sparingly about his war experiences. However, he would later recall witnessing first hand the destruction on Hiroshima after the nuclear bomb devastated the area, and ultimately brought World War II to an end. In 1997, as a special birthday gift, their niece, LouAnn Chaffee, took Gino and Carmen to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., an extremely moving experience for Gino. For his brave and courageous military service, he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge Bronze Arrow Head for Landings and the Military Bronze Star. Additionally, he also received Unit Presidential Citation and Southwest Pacific Campaign ribbons. Home from the war in 1946, he married the love of his life, Carmen Lavin (whom he endearingly called ChiChi) on Sept. 4, 1946, at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Barre. He briefly served at the VA Hospital in White River Junction as Chief of the Outpatient Department. He was then offered a two-year residency fellowship in Anesthesiology at UVM by Dr. John Abajian, Jr., the Chief of Staff at the DeGoesbriand Hospital in Burlington. He practiced at the Mary Fletcher Hospital, Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital, Fanny Allen Hospital and in Middlebury's Porter Hospital from 1948-1950. He was a member of Anesthesia Associates of Burlington and a Diplomat of the American Board of Anesthesiology in 1953. He became Clinical Professor of Surgery at the UVM college of Medicine in 1979. Surgeons often remarked about the reassurance they felt when Gino Dente was administering the anesthesia in the operating room. Gino was a member of the AMA, the American Society of Anesthesia, the UVM Wilbur Society and a life member of the Vermont Medical Society. For his enduring loyalty and dedication to the College of Medicine and his decades of visionary leadership, such as the creation of an independent anesthesiology department in what is now Fletcher Allen Health Care, he was awarded the A. Bradley Soule Award. After more than 40 years of dedicated practice, he retired in 1987. He was an avid golfer and longtime member of the Burlington Country Club. He was a member of the Vermont Seniors Golf Association and a longtime member of the Ethan Allen Club. Gino was a director of Wizard Inc., the Merlin Corporation and a partner of Round Table Investors for many years. This tightly knit investors' group, which included the late Buddy Zais, the late Hilton Wick, Gordon Page, M.D., the late Platt Powell, M.D., the late Howard (Bud) Allen and several others, that you could do business with friends and have a lot of fun doing it! Among the many that he called his friends were Gordon Page, M.D.; the late Platt Powell, M.D.; and Armand Roy. Other lifelong friends included Herb Durfee, M.D.; the late Dr. Bishop McGill; the late Wm. Fagan, M.D.; Thomas and Betty LaFreniere of Norwich, Conn.; and a special friend, Dan Bezio of South Burlington. Gino and his wife, Carmen, were longtime members of St. John Vianney parish who, in addition to attending weekly Mass, lived their faith through their words and kindnesses to others. Together they built a legacy of love and selfless generosity to friends, family, and community, for over 65 years. In their retirement years, Carmen and Gino divided their time between their home in South Burlington and Boca Raton, Fla. Gino will be remembered as friendly, fun loving and generous. He was always there to help his and Carmen's family. His infectious smile, his sense of humor and cheerful demeanor were endearing to all that knew and loved him. At family events around the dining room table, he would engage in lively debates about any number of subjects. As one family member put it, "he was always a lot of fun to have a glass of wine with." Gino was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, James Ernest in 1998 and Nelson in 1983; and a sister, Florence, in 1918. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Carmen; as well as several nephews of the Dente family: Thomas and Camilla Dente of Middleton, Conn. and children, Thomas, Paul, and Erin; James (Jack) E. and Collette Dente of South Burlington and children, John, Chantal and Ashley; Richard H. and Lucille Dente of Barre and children, Christopher, Karen and Kevin; Stephen N. and Carol Dente of Londonderry, N.H. and children, Jay and Michael; and Robert Dente. He is also survived by the nieces and nephews of Carmen's family: LouAnn Cerisoli Chaffee and husband, George, of Williston; Charles Cerisoli and wife, Betty, of South Burlington; Paul Cerisoli of Chicago, Ill. and son, Justin; Phyllis Birschbach of Tallahassee, Fla.; Robert Weil and wife, Eileen, and children, Emma and Chris of Oakton, Va.; Karen McKenny and husband, David, and children, Katherine, Nicholas and Alexander of South Burlington; JoAnn C. Davis and husband, David, and son, Taylor of Germantown, Md.; Cynthia Hesslink and husband, Geoffrey, and children, Geoffrey, William and Catherine of Shelburne; Charles Cerisoli and wife, Lynn, and daughter of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; and a brother-in-law, Victor Lavin and wife, Eleanor, of Barre and their son, Michael Lavin of Randolph. Calling hours will be held at Corbin & Palmer Funeral Home, 77 South Union St., Burlington, on Aug. 17, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. John Vianney Church on Aug. 18, 2011, at 12 noon. Interment will follow at
Resurrection Park Cemetery in South Burlington. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Any correspondence for the family may be sent c/o LouAnn Chaffee, 317 Meadowrun Road, Williston, VT 05495. Gino, Gli angeli vi danno il benvenuto in paradiso.