Joseph C. Gottsch

Joseph Christian Gottsch, M.D., 76, of Prairie Village, Kan., formerly of Shenandoah, died Aug. 21, 2003, at his home. Born in Shenandoah on Sept. 23, 1926, he attended public schools in Shenandoah and entered the University of Iowa in 1943. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and earned a varsity letter on the swimming tenin in the 1943-1941 season. In 1944, he was accepted as a Cadet-Midshipman Engineer in the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. Joe served aboard the S.S. Hunter Victory and S.S. Rum River daring sea duty in 1945-1946.



He returned to the University of Iowa in 1946 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1948. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1951 and was a member of the Nu Sigma Nu Medical fraternity. He completed an internship at Tulane Division Charity Hospital in New Orleans, La. During the Korean War, he served as a flight surgeon and was based at the Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, the Goose Air Base in Labrador, Canada, and Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. He was discharged as a captain.

Joe married Janet Sly on April 9, 1955 in Fairfax. Mo. In 1959 he completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, Penn. He practiced medicine as an orthopedic surgeon at Trinity Lutheran Hospital and Research Hospital from 1960 to 1996. Joe was chairman of the Trinity Surgery Department for three years. He was a member of the Metropolitan Medical Society of Kansas City, the Missouri State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Missouri State Orthopaedic Society and the Mid-Central States Orthopaedic Society. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

He was preceded in death by his brother, John E. Gottsch, M.D., who also was an orthopedic surgeon, and his parents, Jennie Dunnegan Gottsch and Erwin-Julius Gottsch, M.D. Survivors include his wife, Janet Sly Gottsch of the home; children and spouses Jane and John Sainsbury of Havelock North, New Zealand; John and Diane Gottsch of Castle Rock, Colo.; James and Julie Gottsch of Kansas City, Mo; grandchildren Paul Gottsch, Jenny Gottsch, Joseph Erwin Gottsch, William Gottsch, Elizabeth Sainshury and Alexander Sainsbury; and step-grandchildren Daniel Martin, Benjamin Martin, Timothy Martin and Anna Martin; and his sister Clara Jane Matthews and husband Dale of Shenandoah.

Memorials are suggested to the Shenandoah Public Library, 201 S. Elm St., Shenandoah, IA, 51601 or the University of Iowa Foundation, P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, IA, 52244.

Graveside services were Tuesday at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Shenandoah. D.W. Newcomer's Sons Funeral Home in Overland Park, Kan., was in charge of arrangements.