



Majic S. Potsaid
November 20, 1916 – February 13, 1994

Dr. Majic S. Potsaid, eighth president of the New England Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine from 1971 to 1972, died on February 13, 1994. He was an enthusiast for the field of nuclear medicine, and applied his singular talents with great devotion to its advancement and to the promotion of the highest standards of practice. Though he was involved primarily in imaging modality, he never forgot that his job was to take care of sick people; a reflection of his own caring personality.

Dr. Potsaid energetically supported the establishment of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine which made nuclear medicine an officially acknowledged independent specialty. During his presidency this became a reality, and, with Jim Adelstein and Ted Webster, Maj promoted a very successful refresher course for candidates of the first ABNM examination. The annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine was held in Boston that year, and he participated with great vigor and imagination, making that July, 1972 meeting an outstanding success.

Maj was an extraordinarily gifted person with rare intellect and unusual abilities reflected in his exceptional education and successful professional career. Dr. Potsaid was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Following graduation from Pittsfield High School in 1934, he worked for a year in his family's grocery and meat business, then in the General Electric plant in Pittsfield. After earning a high score on the U.S. Civil Service examination, he became a laboratory assistant at the Harvard Medical School, engaging in a Public Health Service cancer study. Dr. Potsaid subsequently worked at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland for a year, attending night classes at George Washington University. During World War II he served in the Army for five years.

After the war, Dr. Potsaid entered a combined college/medical school program at Yale University, earning his bachelor's degree in one year and his medical degree four years later. He interned at Central Maine General Hospital and at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by general practice in Pittsfield for two years. He gave up private practice to become a radiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and there became director of nuclear medicine. Dr. Potsaid was an assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School and a Research Fellow of the American Cancer Society. Those of us who knew him appreciate his abundant contributions to nuclear medicine; those of us who didn't will always benefit from his work.

Harold L. Chandler
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts