

Kenneth R. McCormack, MD, 1926–2012



Kenneth R. McCormack, MD, one of the earliest full-time nuclear medicine physicians, died at the age of 86 on December 6, 2012, in Burlingame, CA, of compli-

cations related to pulmonary disease. He was a noted expert in ^{131}I treatment of thyroid disorders. He was born in Lewiston, ID, and was a graduate of the University of Idaho (Moscow), where he played on the football team. He received his medical degree from McGill Medical School (Montreal, Canada) and later studied under William Myers, MD, a nuclear medicine pioneer, at Ohio State University (Columbus). In the early 1960s, Dr. McCormack

joined the medical faculty of the University of California at San Francisco and in 1966 became the section chief in nuclear medicine at the University of Kentucky (Lexington). The following year he returned to San Francisco as chief of nuclear medicine at Mt. Zion Medical Center, where he remained until his retirement in 1989. Dr. McCormack and I practiced together from 1971 until his retirement. He was my mentor, partner, and, most important, friend.

Dr. McCormack served as treasurer of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and was an examiner in nuclear medicine for the American Board of Radiology. In that capacity he was recognized for his calmness and fairness. He was respected for his knowledge of the field, as well as his ability to care for patients. He was often consulted by his peers in nuclear medicine. He was published widely during his academic career and was also a

reviewer for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

In retirement, he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Christian Action Lifeline, and Friends in Service to Humanity. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, where he was known for his fine baritone singing voice. Dr. McCormack had an abiding love of the outdoors, which began when he spent summers on fire and forest crews in Idaho as a teenager. He and his wife, Lila, maintained a cabin at Big Trees, CA, which they shared with their many friends. He built furniture in his woodworking workshop, enjoyed bridge and reading, and valued the time spent with family and friends. He is survived by his wife, 3 daughters, 3 grandsons, and many nieces and nephews.

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