

Dr. Franklin Cassel, 90, was geriatric specialist

Dr. Franklin K. Cassel, 90, formerly of South Broad Street, Lititz, died of natural causes Wednesday at Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike.

A family physician and geriatric specialist, he had a medical practice in Lititz from 1946 until he retired in 1980 and moved to Brethren Village.

He served on the staffs of Lancaster General Hospital, the former St. Joseph Hospital and Ephrata Community Hospital.

The medical director at Brethren Village from 1975 to 1984 as well as at the United Zion Home and Pleasant View, he also was an attending physician at Brethren Village, Landis Homes Retirement Community, Moravian Manor, Luther Acres and Pleasant View.

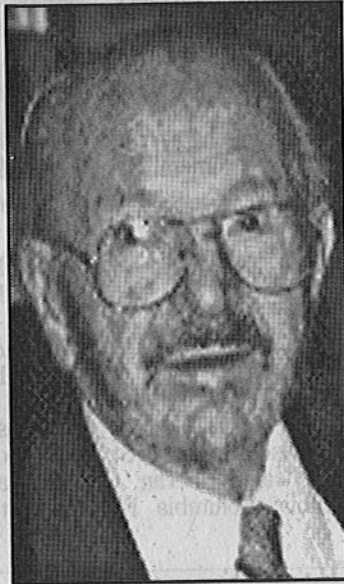
From 1950 to 1951, he was the medical director for the United Nations Civil Assistance Command in Korea. He also served as a civilian with the World Health Organization. He received citations from the commanding general of the Eighth Army in Korea and from the Ministry of Public Health in the Republic of Korea for services rendered on behalf of the Korean people in the field of public health and relief medical care.

From 1944 to 1946, he did volunteer work with Church of the Brethren at Castaner, Puerto Rico.

A 1931 graduate of Collegeville High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in science in 1935 from Elizabethtown College, where he received the Charles E. Weaver Award in biology. He earned his medical degree in 1939 from the former Hahnemann Medical School, Philadelphia. He did his internship in 1939 at Queens Hospital, Honolulu, and his residency at Lancaster General Hospital.

The physician was an Alzheimer's disease activist from 1998 until 2003. He was actively involved in the Caregiver's Army, an organization which increases public awareness about Alzheimer's.

He wrote "Flowers for Peggy" in 1994 to tell about his family's experience with Alzheimer's. With the help of an Elizabethtown College student, he produced a video on Alzheimer's to train caregivers. He also was involved in an online support group for caregivers of those with the disease.



Dr. Franklin Cassel

Church of the Brethren, he was a member of Lititz Church of the Brethren, where he formerly served as board chairman, chairman of the building committee, Sunday school teacher and annual conference delegate. He also served on denominational study committees.

In 1997, the physician received the Peacemaker of the Year Award from the Brethren Peace Fellowship.

In 1966 and 1970, he was the Democratic candidate for Lancaster County coroner.

He served as a trustee for Lancaster County Health and Welfare Foundation in the 1960s and 1970s.

He was a member of Men's Christian Citizens' Council, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, Mental Health Association, American Medical Association, Lancaster County Medical Society, American Geriatrics Society and Association of Brethren Caregivers.

He enjoyed tending his large garden and playing bridge, tennis and volleyball.

Born in Fairview Village, Montgomery County, he was the son of the late Joseph N. and Hettie S. Kulp Cassel.

His wife, Margaret Miller Cassel, died in 1997.

Surviving are a son, John J., husband of Joyce M. Cassel of Oak Park, Ill.; a daughter, Nancy C. Stein of Atglen; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Katharine K., wife of Carl Cauffman of Harleysville, and Mary Emma, wife of Ropp Triplitt of Bluffton, Ohio.