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Dennis L. Wood, M.D., 49

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Dennis L. Wood, M.D., 49, of Los Angeles, Calif., died Dec. 21, 2006, at his home.

Funeral services and a celebration of Dr. Wood's life will be 11 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church in Marshalltown, with Pastor Conrad Lundberg officiating. He will be laid to rest in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. Friends may call at First Baptist Church, 700 E. Olive St. in Marshalltown one hour prior to the services. For condolences, visit www.mitchellfbh.com. Mitchell Family Funeral Home is caring for Dr. Wood and his family. A memorial service is being planned in the beginning of January 2007 in Los Angeles. Arrangements are being planned for a medical lecture series, and his art collection will be displayed in his honor. Memorials may be given for an endowment to be established in his memory.

Dr. Wood graduated from Grinnell High School in 1975, Stanford University with honors in 1979, and the University of California San Diego Medical School with honors in 1983. He completed general surgery training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1989. He had been in general surgery private practice in Beverly Hills, Calif., since 1989. He served on numerous hospital and medical group committees, as Clinical Chief of the Department of Surgery of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and as Chief of the Division of General Surgery. He was awarded the Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching young surgeons in 2001 and the Cedars-Sinai Medical Care Foundation Physician of the Year Award in 2005.

One of his colleagues wrote, "I don't have to tell any of you that Dennis Wood is one of the nicest human beings God ever made. He was kind beyond anyone's imagination and basically cared about everyone he ever came into contact with. He served this community, his patients, his colleagues, Cedars-Sinai and his beloved medical group with the greatest distinction, warmth and love. He is irreplaceable and I only hope that we can all take comfort in knowing that he never suffered."

Dr. Wood achieved the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 347 in Grinnell and graduated valedictorian of his high school class. He coordinated a campaign in Central Iowa to encourage people not to smoke, and gave much joy to children with his magic performances. He was baptized in and attended First Baptist Church in Grinnell. He loved his family and his work.

Dr. Wood is survived by his parents Everett and Rosezella Wood of Marshalltown; two sisters Judy (George) Hill of Marshalltown and Joye (Tom) Welsch of Glenview, Ill.; two nephews Jeff Hill of Marshalltown and Dr. Chris (Elise) Welsch of Jackson, Tenn.; a niece Jennifer (Greg) Laible of Crownsville, Md.; and much adored grandnieces and nephew.

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