

Hubert Elmer “Puck” Kiser Jr, 1931–2018

Orthodontics has lost a colleague who contributed greatly to the specialty and to his fellow man. Hubert Elmer “Puck” Kiser Jr of Martinsville, Virginia, passed away on October 26, 2018. He lived a fruitful and happy life and will be sorely missed by his family, his many friends, and the many young orthodontists and general dentists whom he mentored.

Puck was raised in the small town of Tazewell, Virginia, where in high school he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He once told the humorous story that his most notable high school accomplishment, however, was that he was President of the “Women Haters Club” (a group of young boys who would have hated to be without girls!)—humorous mischief was his trademark. At Hampden-Sydney College, Puck played both football and baseball and worked as a chemistry assistant. He went to dental school at the Medical College of Virginia and graduated in 1957. He was elected to OKU and was president of his senior class, but the smartest thing he did was to marry Anne Troxler. Immediately after graduation, he joined the Air Force and served at Mitchell Air Force Base on Long Island, New York. After Air Force duty, he and Anne moved to Collinsville, Virginia, where he established a practice of general dentistry. Not content with general dentistry, he moved his family back to New York to study orthodontics at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. After orthodontic graduate training, the family moved again, this time to Bluefield, West Virginia, where he served the orthodontic needs of the area for almost 50 years. In 2013 he retired from his orthodontic practice, and he and Anne moved into Anne’s family home in Martinsville, Virginia.

Puck was an avid supporter of his community of Bluefield and later Martinsville. In Bluefield he was the president of the Rotary Club, an elder and trustee for the First Presbyterian Church, a director of the Davis Stuart Home for children and a director of the Tazewell Community Hospital Foundation Board. After his retirement and the move to Martinsville, he became the “temporary chairman” (for 12 years!) of the Lunch and Fellowship Group and a very active member of the First United Methodist Church.



Dr Hubert Elmer “Puck” Kiser Jr

As a professional, he served as the President of seemingly everything: the West Virginia Orthodontic Association, the Southwest Virginia Dental Society, the Virginia Orthodontic Association, and the Southern Association of Orthodontists (SAO). He was chairman of the West Virginia Orthodontic Specialty Examiners Committee for more than 10 years and served Virginia as a delegate to the American Association of Orthodontists House of Delegates for 6 years. While president of the SAO, he served on the committee charged to raise funds, select a building site, and build the SAO headquarters building in Atlanta. This building, which continues to house the SAO office, was occupied with no debt during his term as President of the Southern Association of Orthodontists. He also served the Southern Association on 2 Future Directions Committees which helped guide the future of the SAO and of orthodontics in the 13 southern states for many years.

Doctor Kiser was a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and was one of the first individuals selected to serve as an examiner for the Board’s certification examination. He served the American Board of Orthodontics in this capacity for 10 years. He was, by all standards, the epitome of a great Board examiner: always courteous, kind, and humorous, yet he got to the

essence of the treatment of each and every patient record that he perused. Puck was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and received the Oren Oliver Distinguished Service Award as well as the Citizenship Award from the SAO. He wrote approximately 20 orthodontic articles and published a book "Only In Tazewell II," a collection of many personal poignant yet humorous stories. The book's proceeds benefit the Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell, Virginia.

Puck and Anne were married for 63 years. They were avid travelers who visited all 50 states and all 7 continents. They traveled to more than 80 countries and visited Europe 13 times.

What this short essay can not describe is the magnificent contributions that Dr Kiser made to 2 generations of orthodontic specialists and general dentists. He was known for his impeccable character and the ethical manner in which he conducted his practice and his professional life. He gave an ethics talk for at least 10 consecutive years to all young orthodontists who became members of the SAO. Many of his SAO colleagues still wear the dinosaur lapel pin that he gave to all whom he thought were "dinosaurs" in our specialty: those people who were guided by our code of

ethics and by putting service to people above self in their communities.

Doctor Kiser made people's lives brighter. Many have reported that he would send some funny poem in the mail or would call and leave a humorous message on an answer phone or recite a poem he had written. He sent boxes to many of his friends, and when the friend opened the box, there would be nothing but a note which asked "Did you enjoy that mountain air?" Puck made his friends feel loved and appreciated. He was a friend's friend, an orthodontist's orthodontist, and a servant's servant. He will indeed be sorely missed. Dr Kiser is survived by his wife, Anne Troxler Kiser; his son, Dr. Kent Kiser, an orthodontist in Radford, Virginia; his daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly Kiser Snyder and Dr Edward "Chopper" Snyder, an orthodontist in Martinsville, Virginia; and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews—and scores of friends around the world.

*Kent Kiser
Edward (Chopper) Snyder
James L. Vaden
Radford and Martinsville, Va
and Cookeville, Tenn*