

## Half Staff – Thomas E. Squires

**May 9, 2003**

Dr. Thomas E. Squires, 66, husband of Jane (Buchanan) Squires, of Rockport, died Wednesday, May 7, at his residence due to an inoperable brain tumor. Dr. Squires was born July 16, 1936, in New Britain, Conn., son of the late Edward, C. and Mary A.C. (Ryan) Squires. He had lived in Rockport since 1962.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served as a captain from 1962 to 1964.

His family reports that he was modest about his academic achievements, not often mentioning his honor graduations from Notre Dame High School, Fairfield University and, Tufts Dental School. He spent many years teaching diagnostic dentistry at Harvard Dental School. He never had his diplomas framed and hung, causing many to speculate he wasn't a D.M.D. at all, but maybe an escaped comic from the Catskills.

Dr. Squires had a good sense of humor, frequently entertaining patients with his "bad jokes." Rather than wincing in pain, they winced at his jokes. It caused one patient to say, "It's not so much a visit to the dentist, as it is a 'trip'."

His was a relaxed, comfortable and slightly eccentric office. He was a Santa look-alike and played it every year, hat on head, bell in hand. Also, he was the leprechaun who thought nothing of dying his beard green on St. Patrick's Day, the Bon Vivant straw-hatted, tooling around town in that little car.

When not bantering, with patients, Dr. Squires enjoyed flying small planes, circling Cape Ann, "getting the big picture." To him, "life is not a root canal."

He also enjoyed his Saturday morning breakfast club with a group of friends who resembled the "Rowdy Boys" but were all community leaders. He also enjoyed his "Champagne Sundays" at Bananas and "Sunday Cigars", where the Rowdy Boys indulged in cigars and brandy at bachelor Dr. Russ Sandfield's house.

In addition to his wife of 40 years, Dr. Squires is survived by a son and daughter-in law, Chase and Saralee Squires of Zephyrhills, Florida; a daughter, Gia Squires of New Orleans, La.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Ted and Samantha Squires and John and Vicki Squires, all California; a sister-in-law, Elaine Buchanan and life partner Albert Natale, of Boston; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated St. Joachim's Church tomorrow at 10 a.m. Visiting hours will be held in the Burgess and Mackey Funeral Home, 201 Main St., Rockport, today from 4 to 8 P.m. Relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The burial will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to The Visiting Nurses Association, 8 Angle St., Gloucester, Mass., 01930 or to VNA Hospice Care, 5 Federal St, Danvers, Mass., 01923.

The Burgess & Mackey Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements