



In Memoriam

Dr. Cook, AAP past president



Dr. Cook

Fondly remembered by patients and colleagues for his bold ties and efforts to improve health for low-income patients, AAP Past President **Donald E. Cook, M.D., FAAP**, of Denver, died Oct. 17. He was 84.

While AAP president in 1999-2000, Dr. Cook called on pediatricians to advocate for universal health care for children, violence prevention, and improved access to and payment for immunizations. He also drew members' focus to what he called "giving up the store," a phenomenon in which pediatricians were slowly losing grasp of patients to other health care providers such as emergency departments. He reached out to international pediatricians on behalf of the Academy as well.

The sports-loving Dr. Cook played football and hoped to coach, until injuries in college sidelined his plans. After high school, he enlisted in the Navy serving as a Pharmacist's Mate. He shifted his focus and earned his medical degree in 1955 at University of Colorado School of Medicine, where he also completed a pediatric residency. He completed a general residency at Tulare County General Hospital in California.

In 1959, he joined a private practice in Aurora,

Colo. His family relocated to Greeley, Colo., in 1964 to establish a new practice. He was clinical professor of pediatrics at University of Colorado.

Dr. Cook was especially proud of efforts to establish the Montfort Children's Clinic for low-income and uninsured children in 1995 with the help of a \$9,500 Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant. The clinic continues to help patients in Montfort today.

He also co-founded the Greeley Sports Medicine Clinic in 1985. He worked as a team physician for the high school football and wrestling teams in Greeley, where he was school board president. He also educated the community about seatbelts on school buses, drug abuse and child abuse.

Among leadership roles, Dr. Cook was AAP Colorado Chapter president (1983), AAP alternate District VIII chair (1987), District VIII chair (1993) and chair of the Committee on School Health (1976). He also served as president of the Adams Aurora Medical Society, chair of the American Medical Association Medical Education Committee on School and College Health, and was a member of the Colorado Medical Society.

A nature lover, Dr. Cook enjoyed gardening, photographing nature and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, four children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.