

**IN MEMORIAM****SANFORD E. LEEDS, M.D.**

*Sanford E. Leeds, M.D. (1909-1995)*

It is with considerable sadness that I inform you of the death of Sanford Leeds in San Francisco on February 27, 1995, at the age of 85. Over the years, he rarely missed a meeting and was always an enthusiastic participant in the academic programs.

Sandy was born in San Francisco in 1909, graduated from the University of California at San Francisco in 1936. As a pioneer in cardiovascular and cardiac surgery, he spent time at Vanderbilt University on a National Research Council Fellowship. During that time, he assisted in the development of an innovative surgical procedure to treat babies with congenital cardiac defects. He later carried out experimental surgery at the Harold Brunn Institute for Cardiovascular Research at Mount Zion Hospital and collaborated on the first cardiac catheterization on the West Coast as well as assisting in the

construction of one of the first mechanical heart-lung devices and defibrillators. Sandy became associate chief of surgery at Mount Zion Hospital and director of the experimental surgery research laboratory. In 1970, he retired from his practice in general and thoracic surgery but maintained an active interest in the research field until a few years before his death.

I first met Sandy at the inaugural meeting of the North American Chapter of ISL, as NASL was then called. He was one of those people whose charm, thoughtfulness, zest for life and sense of humor formed a lasting impression on all of those who were associated with him. I can see him now walking the streets of Chicago with his wife, Syra, at an NASL meeting, discussing his work in lymphology from the platform at other meetings, and the never-to-be-forgotten occasion when he left the meeting in Tokyo to set forth for a tour of Korea with a group consisting mainly of nurses, the proud possessor of a new camera presented to him by his family. After Syra's death, Sandy traveled to the meetings alone and the last time many of us were in Sandy's company was at the ISL meeting in Paris in 1991. His health had begun to fail at that time and he relied heavily on the untiring support of Joe Beninson. At the NASL meeting in Anaheim in 1993, Sandy was presented with the first NASL Special Recognition Award, unfortunately in absentia. We have all lost a very valued professional colleague and dear friend.

Sandy's son Andrew was very thoughtful and contacted Joe Beninson with the news of his father's death. I wrote to Andrew Leeds to express the sympathy of all his colleagues in NASL and received a most delightful reply from him in which he noted that his father often talked about his friends in NASL and ISL and suffered intense frustration at no longer being able to attend our meetings.

We all send our deepest sympathy to his son Andrew, daughter-in-law Deborah, and brother Wilber.

**Patricia Jean O'Morchoe, M.D.**  
**President, NASL**