



**George F.
Buerger, Jr., MD**

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ASOPRS Charter Member, George F. Buerger, Jr., MD, age 84, passed peacefully surrounded by family at his home in Churchill, Pennsylvania on Sunday, June 16, 2019. Beloved husband of over 60 years of Patricia Fike Buerger; loving father of ASOPRS Members David Buerger, MD and Daniel Buerger, M.D. and of Thomas Buerger of Washington, DC; Dr. Buerger had seven grandchildren.

George was raised in Uniontown, PA, through high school in 1953. He graduated in 1958 from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a member and president of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He attended medical school at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington D.C, earning his M.D. in 1962. He started his private practice in ophthalmology, Pittsburgh Oculoplastic Associates, in 1969, which his sons David and Dan joined in 1996 and 1998, respectively. In addition to being a devoted eye surgeon to thousands of patients and a mentor to generations of Pitt ophthalmology residents, George was a leader in the Pittsburgh medical community throughout his career. He served as president of the Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society (1987-1989), the 125th president of the Allegheny County Medical Society in 1990 and was active in the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

As we in ASOPRS know, George was a founding member of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) and became its president in 1976. He was the first ophthalmologist in our subspecialty in Pittsburgh.

What was very important to Dr. Buerger is that he had the privilege of serving as the official ophthalmologist for the Pittsburgh Penguins for 31 years, from 1973-2004. As a member of the Penguins organization, when they won the Stanley Cup in 1992 George used his "Day with the Cup" by visiting the Pittsburgh Blind Association and allowing the visually impaired to share in the experience of "seeing" the cup by feel.

Bill Mack, MD, one of our ASOPRS Members, cited his remembrance of Dr. Buerger always greeting him at the ASOPRS Spring Meetings, welcoming both he and his family. I know many, many ASOPRS Members remember him in their own special way; however, it is universally known amongst the Society that he was a giant in our field. Thank you Dr. Buerger for believing in ASOPRS and forming the Society into what we are today.

The Buerger family, in a very generous gesture asked that in lieu of flowers, mourners provide a charitable donation to the ASOPRS Foundation, which many relatives, patients, peers and friends have done.

Charles S.G. Maris, MD

Charles S.G. Maris M.D. passed away peacefully at his home in Cumming, Georgia with his beloved wife, Karin, by his side on July 3, 2019. He was 88-years-old.

Born March 5, 1931, Dr. Maris grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Fordham University in 1952. He obtained his medical degree from State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in 1956, where he was elected to the honor society Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA). After serving as a Captain in the United States Air Force, Dr. Maris began his ophthalmology residency at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in 1959. Dr. Maris completed an oculoplastics preceptorship with and then joined the practice of the esteemed Wendell L. Hughes, M.D. in Hempstead, N.Y. After his younger brother, Peter J.G. Maris, Sr., M.D. joined the practice, the two became affectionately known as the 'Maris Brothers,' and both enjoyed decades-long careers as preeminent ophthalmology clinicians and surgeons who earned the highest respect and admiration

from their patients and colleagues in the New York area.

Dr. Maris was named a Charter Fellow of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS) in 1969. On Long Island, Dr. Maris was affiliated with the former Hempstead General Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, and Nassau University Medical Center, where he was director of the oculoplastics service for many years. Over his distinguished career, he mentored countless medical students, residents, and early-career ophthalmologists, including his nephew, Dr. Peter J.G. Maris, Jr., M.D.

He is survived by his wife Karin, his brother Peter (Kay), his former wife Ling, his daughters Elena (Sam) and Liana (Henry), and his four grandchildren: Anna, Charlie, Romeo, and Remi. He will be greatly missed by all. Contributions honoring his memory, if wished, would be graciously accepted by the ASOPRS Foundation, P.O. Box 916048, Longwood, FL, 32791.