

Dr. Robert B. Hedges

Dr. Robert B. Hedges, a prominent Pennsylvania orthodontist and educator, died April 13, 1995 of congestive heart failure. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware and raised in Plainfield, New Jersey. He attended Oberlin College and received his DDS from Temple University. After service in the US Army, he entered the orthodontic program at the University of Illinois. Upon graduation in 1946 he joined the orthodontic staff at Temple University and began what would be a very distinguished career.



He became a full professor at Temple in 1955. In 1958 he was appointed director of graduate orthodontics and established the first graduate program in orthodontics at Temple University. Modeled after Allan Brodie's program at Illinois and staffed largely by Illinois alumni, including Allan Brader, Eugene Coben, and Milt Lande, the department was affectionately called University of Illinois East. In addition to his career as an educator, Dr. Hedges established a private practice in Jenkintown in 1948 and continued to practice there until March of this year.

The list of Robert Hedges' involvements is a reflection of his enthusiasm for and dedication to the profession. He was a charter member of the North Atlantic Component of the Angle Society and was president of the national body from 1971 to 1973. In 1983 he was the honoree at the biennial meeting of the Angle Society. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and served as director and president from 1973 to 1980. Dr. Hedges held life-memberships in a number of professional organizations, and he assumed leadership roles in many of these groups, including the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Mont-

gomery/Bucks County Dental Society, the Second District Dental Society, the American Association of Orthodontists, the Academy of Stomatology, the Stomatological Club, and the Philadelphia Dental Club. He was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. He received the coveted Gerald A. Devlin award from the Mid-Atlantic Society of Orthodontists in 1979. Dr. Hedges was the attending orthodontist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and was a consulting orthodontist at Shriner's Hospital and Temple University Hospital.

With all of his professional commitments, he still had time to be an avid sailor and sportsman. He was a member of the Huntington Valley Country Club and the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club in Beach Haven, New Jersey. His leadership abilities were recognized even in his leisure activities, and he served as Commodore for the Yacht Club in 1970 and Senior Trustee from 1987.

Dr. Hedges is survived by his wife, Vivian W. Hedges, who shared with him 24 years of mutual devotion and partnership. He is also survived by two sons, Roger and Alan Hedges, step-daughter Nancy Coffin Lee, and step-sons William and Robert Coffin.

Dr. Hedges will be remembered with great affection by his many friends and colleagues in orthodontics. He will be missed by his students at the graduate orthodontic department at Temple who benefited immeasurably from his generosity as a teacher. He was especially admired by them for the atmosphere he created where residents were treated with enormous respect. He will be missed by many.

Contributions to his memory can be made to The Robert B. Hedges Memorial Fund of the AAO Foundation, 401 N. Lindburgh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141.

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