

Dr. Joseph W. Gruber, Jr., D.D.S., age 79, of Yorkville, IL, passed away on Monday, September 29, 2014 at his home. He was born on March 11, 1935 in Chicago, IL, the son of Joseph W. and Leona (Perry) Gruber, Sr. Joseph was united in marriage on June 28, 1958 to the former Nancy Lowney and they spent the next 56 happy years together. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle who will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He served his country proudly as a dentist while stationed in the United States Air Force, and practiced dentistry in Yorkville for his entire career. For many years, Dr. Gruber attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Yorkville, IL with his family. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Gruber of Yorkville, IL; his children, Stephanie (Donald) Nelson of La Grange Park, IL, Dr. Joseph W. (Jennifer) Gruber III, D.D.S. of Yorkville, IL, and Cynthia Wills of Tarrytown, NY; his grandchildren, Andrew Nelson, Thomas Nelson, Matthew Gruber, Alexander Wills, John Gruber, Amelie Wills, and Cameron Wills; his sister, Judith Wondolowski of Hendersonville, NC, and his sister-in-law, Laurette Gruber of Riverside, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph W. and Leona Gruber, Sr. and his brother, Robert Gruber. Joe loved life. He enjoyed sports and was active until the end of his life, playing tennis and golf, and going for bike rides nearly every day. From the time Joe was young, he played both the clarinet and saxophone in various bands and orchestras, most recently in the Yorkville Community Band, performing in the summer concert series and marching in the annual Fourth of July parade. Joe took immense pleasure in reading everything from novels to the newspaper. He displayed this passion by serving on the Yorkville Public Library board and was instrumental in the construction of the new library. As a young person, Joe was an enthusiastic student and put himself through college and dental school by mowing lawns and playing jazz gigs. He understood the value of education and established a scholarship at Waubensee Community College to help students in need. Joe also gave back by serving for years on the Kendall County Board of Health and rarely missed a day of work---he was happy in his job as a dentist in Yorkville and looked forward to seeing his patients. He also served on The Bank of Yorkville Board of Directors and was an active member of the Illinois Dental Society. More than anything, Joe never tired of travel and adventure with his wife Nancy. His thirst for new experiences and culture took them around the world. He enjoyed skiing, sailing, and flying airplanes with family, neighbors, and friends. He loved being a father. His grandchildren made him proud. He had a lot of fun. And he appreciated a good meal. The family would like to thank many kind and generous friends for their love and support during Joe's long, determined fight with cancer. Memorial services will be private. Arrangements by Nelson Funeral Homes & Crematory,