

Ignatius Jozsef Kazella

Died: June 28, 2013

Ignatius died early Friday morning in Rockaway, New Jersey, on June 28, 2013, with members of his family present. He was 78 years old.

Born in Tat, Hungary, Ignatius came to the United States by himself at the age of 22 in 1956 during the revolution in Hungary.

He began college at Dartmouth as a member of the Class of 1961, but sometime later, it is not clear when, he transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University in Hackensack, New Jersey, from which he graduated with a B.S. degree in chemistry as well as a dental degree (D.D.S).

For the next 39 years he had a dental practice in North Haledon, New Jersey. For our 25th reunion yearbook, he wrote that he was “very active in Hungarian circles, and was a co-president of American Hungarian Federation.” He organized demonstrations in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Ottawa, Canada, advocating for the rights of Hungarians in Slovakia and Romania.

He was a member of the Hungarian Communion of Friends, the American Hungarian Federation, and the Holy Name Society of St. Stephen. He was also a soccer coach in North Haledon.

Except for address references to his home in North Haledon, New Jersey in our 35th and 40th reunion publications, and his above-mentioned entry in our 25th reunion yearbook, Ignatius goes unmentioned in the Greenbook, Aegis, and the reunion yearbook for our 50th reunions.

Numerous condolences expressed in the guest book of the Deluccia-Lozito Funeral Home following his death echoed common sentiments.

“Igibácsi [his nick name] was a very good person, helping wherever he could. He was very welcoming and kind. I spent one of my best Christmas times at his home, which was the first one for me away from my family. Igibacsi and his family were the most welcoming and kind people,” wrote one friend.

Another wrote, “Igibacsi was a fun-loving and caring person and will be greatly missed.”

Others knew him as their dentist. “Dr. Kazella was our dentist for a very long time, He was a wonderful person,” one said. “Best dentist I ever went to — I always had complete confidence in him — and a lovely person,” said another. “Dr. Kazella was the very best dentist and a kind and wonderful person with a big heart,” wrote another patient.

Ignatius was survived by his wife of 52 years, Eva. He had four sons: Stephen, Charles, Peter, and Andrew.