

My parents located in La Grange, N.Y. after my father completed his MS degree. He accepted a job to teach at Poughkeepsie High School. I actually rode a bus over two hours daily to attend Holy Trinity School in Arlington. Our Lady of Lourdes high school followed. Science always appealed to me and fortunately, I was accepted as a pre med at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.. My Georgetown undergraduate experience from the College of Arts and Sciences influenced me to apply to Georgetown Dental School. Dental school was a life defining experience! While a dental student, I married my high school sweet heart in 1969. Even though Patty had a teaching certificate, she was employed by a Virginia periodontist as the office manager. In the fall of my senior year in dental school, I had the existential surprise of an cerebral arterial venous malformation. I spent 69 days hospitalized, survived neurosurgical treatment, and months of physical therapy. Georgetown graciously allowed my dental education to continue under the personal supervision of the dean. Just a year later I graduated from dental school fully recovered from this potential career altering experience.

After passing my NERBs, I returned to Dutchess County and purchased a dental practice in Hyde Park from Dr. Richard Sniffin. Stepping into a mature aging practice, shortly after graduation, was traumatic at best. All of my staff and most of my patients were older than I was.

My first son Bill was born in 1974 when I was at my first all day Ninth District meeting. My second son, Joe, was born 17 months later. Life was busy, both at home and at work. My daughter, Georgia, was born in 1983 completing our family.

As “baby-boomers” we went through many changes; the dental society changed also. Locally I progressed through the chairs of the Dutchess County Dental Society. During this time, Dutchess County felt neglected by The Ninth District. Dr. Manasar and Dr. Baum risked their lives flying to a DSSNY meeting in fog bound Montauk, delivering our ultimatum: to resign from The Ninth District and form our own district society. Bob Gabrielle and Elliot Feinberg offered me a rotation through The Ninth District Chairs to resolve the Dutchess problem. And so began my career in the leadership of The Ninth District. We have had a Dutchess dentist serving as a Ninth president every 5 years since. Following my presidency, Dr. Baum became president, then Dr. Manasar, and then Dr. Vigliotti.

I became a fellow of the American College of Dentists in 2004. The Ninth generously awarded me the D Austin Sniffen medal in 2008, for years of service to the Ninth District. From my first day in dental school, service to the profession was stressed as a worthy goal. I have tried to follow those lessons taught to me for my 43 year career.