

In Memoriam



Robert R. Urban, M.D.

Robert R. Urban, M.D., (1929-2022), of Perryopolis, Pa., died on Jan 23. He served as president of AAPS in 2002-2003 and founded the Society for the Education of Patients and Physicians (SEPP).

Dr. Urban served in the U.S. Army 1947-1949. After earning his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, he served patients for more than 50 years. At Monongahela Valley Hospital, he held many leadership positions including president of the medical staff, and was a pioneer in establishing the first coronary care unit there.

Dr. Urban was a principled and tireless warrior for private medicine and the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship. As he wrote in 2002, as government and third parties invaded the practice of medicine, physicians began to lose their direction, and most medical decisions are now made or strongly influenced by nonmedical managers and bureaucrats. "The Oath of Hippocrates now is found in various forms, diluted and compromised away from its original words and intent. Physician and patient autonomy no longer exist. Independent private practice is now an aberration.... Confidentiality is now in grave jeopardy." Yet, he pointed out that freedom could still prevail. In 1776, only four percent of the American colonists favored secession from Great Britain.

"Maybe it is time for another Philadelphia 1776 type of gathering for freedom; a time for another small minority to be heard—over the din of those who would trade freedom in medicine for the comfort zone. Then perhaps we could look forward to another 'Fourth Of July.'"



Yorkie, Our Beloved Mascot

Early on May 4, 2022, beloved Yorkie (Freedom's Victory at Saratoga and Yorktown), third born of Virgie's Freedom Septuplets, born on the 4th of July, 2009, passed from this life into the arms of her Creator, at age 12 years, 10 months.

Three of the septuplets (Yorkie, Trenty, and George), in addition to their mother and grand-aunt, have been Official Mascots of AAPS. Over 20 years, they had an exemplary attendance record. They were present at every annual meeting since 1999, except in 2012, 2017, and 2019. They listened attentively and could always be trusted to maintain confidentiality.

Yorkie and her mother and siblings accompanied Dr. Tamzin Rosenwasser, our current treasurer (pictured here with Yorkie), to the Doctors' Tea Party, Sept 12, 2009, in Washington, D.C. Yorkie attended her first AAPS board meeting as a preborn puppy, and her first annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn., at age 12 weeks. Over her career, she traveled to 24 states and attended nine annual meetings and many interim board meetings.

The Newfoundland is a life-saving breed. The mascots befriended members, had selfies taken with dozens of Delta crew members staying at the hotel, delighted and comforted children attending with their parents, and were ambassadors of love to everyone they met. They will be greatly missed.

Read more about our mascots' service to AAPS at <https://bit.ly/aapsmascots>.