

Dr. Lester M. Cohen, 93, a retired dentist who practiced for over 40 years in Philadelphia and Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, died on October 6, 2011. Services will be held in Philadelphia.

Dr. Cohen was a member of the Greatest Generation, surviving the flu pandemic, the economic ravages of the Great Depression, and the dangers of war on the battlefields of Europe. Through it all he was a devoted and loving son, husband, father, and grandfather. His sense of humor, intellect, and curiosity about life and the modern world were with him to the end. We will miss him very much.

Dr. Cohen was born in Philadelphia on September 2, 1918, to Catharine and Michael Cohen, a Philadelphia police officer. In the month he was born, and for several months following, tens of thousands of Philadelphians died in the Great Influenza Pandemic.

Dr. Cohen graduated from Philadelphia's Central High School in 1935. Inspired by his uncle Harry Schwartz, who was a dentist, he graduated from the Temple University School of Dentistry. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he accepted a commission in the US Army Dental Corps. After service at Camp Shelby, in Hattiesburg MS, he joined the medical unit of the 148th Engineer Combat Battalion, 7th Corps, 1st Army, and landed with his unit on Utah Beach, Normandy, on D-Day plus 2. The 148th also participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and built the Hodges Bridge in Remagen, Germany. He resigned his commission at the end of the war with the rank of captain.

Dr. Cohen was a dentist, first in West Philadelphia, and then for many years in Drexel Hill. He was a long-time member of Main Line Reform Temple Beth Elohim, where he served on the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Adult Education Committee.

While stationed at Camp Shelby in 1943, Dr. Cohen married Annette Caplan of Philadelphia. She died in 1986. He married Roslyn Bush Rosenberg in 1987, who survives him. He is also survived by Roz's children and grandchildren, who were very dear to him.

He is survived by his daughters and their husbands, Barbara and S. Mitchell Freedman of Raleigh and Janet and Benjamin Lentz of Bronxville, NY, and by five wonderful grandchildren: Michael Freedman and his wife Morissa, David Freedman and his wife Rian, Alex Lentz, Allison Lentz Gottlieb and her husband Steven, and Daniel Lentz.

Dr. Cohen was preceded in death by his parents, by his brother Harold Cohen, and his sister Isabel Goldberg.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made to the North Carolina Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 401 Harrison Oaks Blvd., Suite 200, Cary, NC, 27513; to Temple Beth Or, 5315 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612; or to a charity of the donor's choice.