



WALTER J. GEERAETS, M.D.

1922—1977

Walter J. Geeraets was born September 27, 1922, in Mönchengladbach, Germany to Dutch parents. He entered the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms University School of Medicine, Bonn, and was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1952. From 1952 to 1956 he served as a resident in Diagnostic Radiology at the University Radiation Institute, Bonn, and in general surgery in Bochum, Germany. He came to the United States on an educational leave of absence in 1956 and in January the following year, he began a rotating internship at the Medical College of Virginia. After completing his internship, he became a National Institutes of Health (NIH) special trainee in Ophthalmology and in 1960 joined the faculty of MCV as an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology. In 1963 he advanced to full professor.

Dr. Geeraets, who became a US citizen in 1964,

was a member of numerous national and international professional societies and served as a consultant to various government agencies and industrial corporations. He was the author of over 100 scientific papers and the editor of a reference work, "Ocular Syndromes" which has gone through three editions, the most recent being published in 1977. He was also the co-translator of Thiel's "Atlas of Diseases of the Eye."

During his years in the Department of Ophthalmology at MCV, Dr. Geeraets expanded and improved the resident training program and increased substantially the research facilities and activities of the Department. His death on September 14, 1977, in Richmond has saddened his many friends and colleagues and deprived the faculty of MCV of one of its most valued members.