



by Stephen Kamelgarn, M.D.

DR. Tate Minckler, one of my political frenemies, passed away on June 22 of this year. He and his wife Barbara, moved away from Humboldt County in 2002, but in the twenty-seven years he lived and worked in our community he left a large imprint (as did his father, Jeff Minckler, M.D. for which the Mad River Hospital Minckler Education Conference Room is named). He served as administrator of Mad River Community Hospital for a year, as well as chief pathologist and director of Mad River's clinical lab for ten years in the 1970's and '80's. He was also pathologist and director of the clinical lab at General Hospital of Eureka in the 80's and early 90's.

He really made his mark as director of the Northern California Community Blood Bank from 1990-2002. During his tenure the blood bank flourished, building a new facility on Harrison Av, in Eureka, and developing numer-

Tate M. Minckler, M.D.

April 1, 1934 - June 22, 2021



ous outreach programs. It was considered one of the best blood banks in California.

Tate was very active on the Medical Society's Executive Board, serving as President from July 1990 to June 1991. He served as an active member of our Consortium for Continuing Medical Education Committee 1988-1994 and was instrumental in convincing the Consortium to take over the responsibilities in coordinating Grand Round education programs at all of our local hospitals.

But I knew Tate as a fellow member of the editorial committee of North Coast Physician (known as The Bulletin in those days). When Tate was on the committee, the editorial meetings were fun, funny and lively. He and I agreed on almost nothing, but we maintained a healthy respect for one another goading each other into honing and refining our arguments. He had a wonderful sense of humor and when he and I crafted our editorial policy, we crafted a document that was both short (less than 420 words), pertinent and funny to read –

something that's almost impossible to achieve, but we did it.

In an attempt to get more of the HDNCMS membership to contribute to the journal, Tate and I engaged in a 3 month give and take on gun control in the summer of 2000. This was the highlight of our collaborating together; Tate taking the anti-gun control position and me taking the position of some sort of restrictions on the distribution of firearms in this country. While we didn't get much of a response from the membership, a number of high school English teachers wanted to use our articles in their classes as instruction on how to frame and defend arguments.

When Tate and his wife moved away in 2002, the Medical Society lost an integral member, one who was always looking to improve community health and have some fun along the way.

Tate, I shall miss you and the banter we engaged in, lo these many years ago. §