

Cancer Clinic Named In Leask's Memory

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Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital will dedicate its new outpatient oncology clinic to the memory of the late Samuel Leask III.

In an announcement by Sister Josephine Sullivan, Dominican president, it was stated that the Samuel Leask III Oncology Clinic will treat cancer patients in need of chemotherapy on an outpatient basis and will also provide a hospital-based setting in which cancer victims can learn self-treatment techniques.

"The clinic is not dedicated to Sam because he suffered from cancer," said Dominican Administrator Wayne Boss, "but because of his dedication to important civic activities and the tremendous commitment he always had toward Dominican. His support first as a Santa Cruz resident and later through years of service to our board of directors could never be fully repaid by the hospital. This is one way we can publicly recognize that support."

Leask's death Oct. 29 after an exceptional career of local civic and business leadership was met with sorrow by many Santa Cruz leaders. Flags on city buildings were lowered to half mast and Joseph Ghio, then the mayor, paid tribute to Leask with the statement: "Sam has made many contributions in many areas for the betterment of the city. He gave unselfishly of his time and energy to make a better community for us all."

A member of the pioneering local merchandising family, Leask greatly expanded the department store founded by his grandfather in 1892. But he found the time to serve his city as a member of the Santa Cruz City Council, as mayor in 1967 and as a member of the Downtown Parking Commission, the Joint Powers Agency for Lighthouse Field development and the county Water Resources Coordinating Commission. He was honored as Santa Cruz "Young Man of the Year" in 1953 and in 1969 was named Chamber of Commerce "Man of the Year."

Leask was president of the California Retailers Association, served as chairman of Blue Cross of Northern California and was active in many local clubs and business organizations.

"The dedication of the new outpatient oncology clinic to the memory of Sam is a tribute for which the Leask family is deeply appreciative," Mrs. Mary Leask said when told of Dominican's decision.

"Sam had a great admiration for Dominican Hospital, its excellent health care program and its plans for the future," Mrs. Leask added. "He was honored during his lifetime to work toward Dominican's progress for the good of the entire Santa Cruz community. We thank all of those responsible for naming the new unit in his memory."

According to Dominican authorities, the specially trained oncology

clinic staff will administer medications used to fight cancer and will give blood transfusions needed in certain cancer treatments. Chemotherapy and transfusions, which have revolutionized the management of cancer, are the fastest growing outpatient therapies at Dominican.

The clinic staff will teach as well

as treat, for many people recovering from cancer surgery must learn new personal care habits.

Dr. Dan Olson, president of the local American Cancer Society unit, commended Dominican for developing the concept of the proposed Samuel Leask III Oncology Clinic and urged that the effort be supported.