

Dr. Joseph Fazekas Dies, Ex-Chief at D.C. General

Dr. Joseph F. Fazekas, 59, the stormy former chief of staff at D.C. General Hospital who resigned in a row in 1959, died Friday at Eastern Shore State Hospital after a heart attack.

Dr. Fazekas became director of education and training at Eastern Shore a few weeks ago. A neurologist, he had been an associate professor at Tufts University in Boston since 1961. He lived at 1 Stockton Road, Silver Spring.

A native of New Haven, Conn., and the son of Hungarian immigrants, Dr. Fazekas had to earn his way through the Albany (N.Y.) Medical College.

Joins D.C. General

Dr. Fazekas came to D.C. General as chief medical officer in 1948 and became chief of staff the following year. He was a controversial figure, once criticized by a House District subcommittee and simultaneously praised by the staff members who were supposed to have suffered under his demanding rule.

His credits at D.C. General include organizing an outpatient department, a doctors' pharmacy committee and a complete medical library, insistence on the use of modern equipment, and coordination of medical research.

Dr. Fazekas quit D.C. General along with three other high-



DR. JOSEPH F. FAZEKAS

ranking officials after repeated congressional inquiry into administrative matters. However, he had recently suffered two heart attacks and some observers cited this as the reason for his resignation.

During one congressional hearing on the hospital in the late 1950s, The Star's Rambler noted how the doctor's blood boiled at allegations of hospital inefficiency:

"He is miscast. He is a Hungarian, a rebel, and should be in Budapest carrying two sub-machine guns. By this time, he would have knocked out his 32nd Russian tank singlehandedly," the Rambler said.

* 1910, New Haven, Conn.

Died Oct. 17-1969 (59 yrs)

Takes Post in Boston

After leaving D.C. General, Dr. Fazekas was staff neurologist at the New England Hospital Center in Boston in 1961-62. He was associate clinical professor of neurology at George Washington University and a consultant in neurology at the Veterans Administration Hospital here from 1962 to 1966.

He was chief of the Army Medical Component Clinical Research Center in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1966-67, and visiting professor of neurology at the University of Mexico between January and July of this year.

He was a well-known essayist on neurology, writing 41 treatises on the subject since 1960.

In 1966 Dr. Fazekas served with the Volunteer Physician Project in South Vietnam. The Army flew him back to Washington that year to receive an award from the Jewish War Veterans praising his "humanitarian acts in relieving human suffering."

Dr. Fazekas was a fellow in the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association and the American College of Cardiology. He also belonged to the American Academy of Neurology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He leaves two sons, Thomas S. and Joseph S., and a daughter, Michele K.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Silver Spring, with burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the American Heart Association or a favorite charity.

FAZEKAS, DR. JOSEPH F., MD.

On Friday, October 17, 1969, at the Eastern Shore State Hospital DR. JOSEPH F. FAZEKAS, MD., of 1 Stockton Rd., Silver Spring, Md., husband of Mary S. Fazekas, father of Michale K. Fazekas, Joseph S. and Thomas S. Fazekas; brother of Mrs. Frank Griesing, Mrs. Robert Miller, Leslie and John Fazekas. Dr. Fazekas rests at the Warner E. Pumphrey Funeral Home, 8434 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md., where the family will receive friends Monday, 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. (parking facilities). Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul Tuesday, October 21, at 10 a.m., St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, 72 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, Md. Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery, in preference to flowers, contributions may be made to Montgomery County Heart Association, 7874 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, Md.

