

*In memoriam: Dr. Leo A. Dal Cortivo (September 16, 1928 - December 15, 2011)*

Leo Dal Cortivo was one of the first Diplomates (certificate 009) of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT). He served on the ABFT Board of Directors from its inception to 1980 and he was the first secretary of the Board of Directors. He was granted the Emeritus status in 2003.

Leo was born and raised in New York City and received his early education in NYC public schools. He received a B.S. Degree at Fordham College, a M.S. Degree in biochemistry at Adelphi University and earned the Doctorate in Toxicology at Fordham University. He served in the US Army at the First Army Area Medical Laboratories in New York City. He was a Senior Toxicologist in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, City of New York, until 1960 when he accepted the position of Chief Toxicologist and Director of Forensic Science Laboratories in Suffolk County on Long Island, New York. He was a consultant for the Department of Defense and for the Department of Health and Human Services, inspecting drug testing laboratories throughout the country and abroad. He appeared as an expert witness in numerous court cases, many of them of national significance.

Leo was a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and past chairman of its Toxicology Section, a co-founder of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and its second President, a former Treasurer and Trustee of the Forensic Science Foundation, a member of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) and various other professional societies and associations. He authored and co-authored many peer reviewed papers in the scientific literature as well as several book chapters.

In 1990, the Toxicology Section of the AAFS honored Dr. Dal Cortivo with the Alexander O. Gettler Award for his contributions to the field of forensic toxicology.

Later that year Leo retired from Suffolk County and made Venice, Florida, his permanent home. As much as he enjoyed the sandy beaches of the Florida coast, he always remained a New Yorker at heart.

Dr. Dal Cortivo is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Patricia, his sister Thelma Fusaro, his brother Robert and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews.

He will be greatly missed by his toxicology family.