Robert H. Fennell, Jr., M.D. was a 1943 graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. He trained in Pathology at Norfolk General Hospital and Grady Hospital in Atlanta, and continued his career at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and then the University of Pittsburgh. While in Pittsburgh, Dr. Fennell was actively involved in bench and clinical research and built a national reputation as an academic pathologist. During 1969-70 Dr. Fennell was elected and served as President of the American Society of Cytology.

In 1971 Dr. Fennell was recruited to the Department of Pathology of the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver in an effort to set the standards in practice of anatomic/surgical pathology and resident training. He served as Vice Chair of Pathology beginning in 1971, a position he held for over 17 years. He was widely respected by faculty throughout the medical school and hospital, and successfully carried out numerous administrative responsibilities throughout the School of Medicine, including serving as President of the Faculty early in his tenure in Colorado.

Dr. Fennell was also a superb diagnostician and educator and mentored several generations of pathologists who continue to practice in our community and in academic institutions around the country. He was beloved by the house officers he trained and medical students he taught. In 1988 the Department of Pathology established the Robert H. Fennell, Jr., M.D. Award which is given annually by vote of the current housestaff to the member of the Pathology Faculty at the University of Colorado who most exemplifies the standard of excellence in education set by Dr. Fennell.

We will remember his delightful, dry sense of humor, and his loyalty and integrity. He was first and foremost a gentleman and a scholar, a fine human being and a friend who will be missed by our community and by those from around the country who were fortunate to have known him as a friend, a colleague or a mentor.

Dr. Fennell was predeceased by his wife Maxine, and is survived by his sons, Dr. Dan F. Fennell and Dr. Robert H. Fennell III, their spouses and several grandchildren.