On June 24, 1975, the life of Dr. Theodore Drapanas ended tragically in a plane crash at J. F. Kennedy airport. There can be no doubt that Ted Drapanas was truly an extraordinary man. He was born on February 20, 1930, in Buffalo, N.Y. He devoted himself to scientific surgical research very early. He was an outstanding thoracic surgeon, and especially by his last work he became an internationally acknowledged expert in the field of portal hypertension.

He received many honours, including election to a number of important committees at the National Institute of Health, the National Academy of Science and numerous surgical organizations – national and international – including the presidency of the Society of University Surgeons. At the time of his death he held the position of Henderson Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.

Everybody who knew Ted Drapanas, attributed his success to his genuine intellect, his dedication, his capacity to work endlessly. Ted Drapanas has also a lot of good friends abroad, due to his warm and affectionate personality; even in professional conversation he found a way to people’s heart. The European Society for Surgical Research in particular is obliged to him because he was a vital sponsor and promoter of surgical scientific connections between America and Europe. He was of great importance for preparing and organizing tripartite meetings of the British Surgical Research Society, the European Society for Surgical Research, and Society of University Surgeons of America. For all of us who knew him, his death was a dreadful event.

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