

## I N M E M O R I U M

***Leonard J. Ravitz Jr. MD***

1925 – 2005

By Roxanna Erickson Klein

Leonard Ravitz died on November 21, 2005 in Chesapeake Virginia where he had lived for many years. A 1946 graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine he had received special training in hypnosis with Milton Erickson beginning in 1945. The two psychiatrists shared a long friendship and mutual interest in hypnosis.

Dr. Ravitz became interested in hypnosis while working with EEGs as a medical assistant in 1943. Trained under Harold S. Burr in instrumentation and monitoring techniques, Ravitz and Burr continued their collegial friendship until Burr passed away. Throughout his career Ravitz held many positions of research while he maintained a private practice specializing in hypnosis. Ravitz's sustained interest and extensive studies have led to better understanding of the electro-physiology of the brain under hypnosis. He is cited in numerous studies for

his investigations of how measurable elements of energy fluctuate and change with emotion, health, activity and diverse environmental factors.

Among his more than 35 articles and professional publications, Ravitz's *Electrodynamic Man: Electromagnetic Field Measurements in Biology, Medicine, Hypnosis, and Psychiatry* with a forward by Edward W. Russell (Rutledge Books, 2002) is the most comprehensive reference of his investigations into the reciprocal influence of physiological and environmental forces.

As a lifelong independent bachelor, Dr. Ravitz's dedication to advancing knowledge dominated his work and life. His energetic spirit led him to host get-togethers of great thinkers in his fascinating bay-view apartment where ideas could flow. He surrounded himself with people whose intellectual curiosity was like his own, and thus stimulated investigations where knowledge is often elusive. Erickson considered Ravitz to be one of his most dedicated and brilliant students. Leonard Ravitz leaves his own legacy of encouragement, enthusiasm and groundwork for further exploration.

For more information <http://dravitz.com>