

James Serene (2011)



Vice President – 2015-2016

President – 2016-2017

May 11, 2011: Total Joint Replacement

Feb 13, 2013: Solar Power, 2013 and Beyond

*Feb 10, 2016: Everyone Loves Children: The Emotional Dilemma of
Dealing with an Over-populated World*

Oct 11, 2017: Common Problems of the Foot and Ankle

April 12, 2023: Progress in Orthopedic Surgery and Medicine

I was born at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. on November 21, 1948. As the youngest of four boys, I got used to wearing hand-me-down clothes. My father was the principal at Ambridge High School and as was common in those days, my mother, a college educated school teacher, did not work outside the home. We had a two-bedroom house, with my brothers and I in one, and my parents in the other.

My father immigrated with my grandmother from Italy in 1914. He could not speak English when he went to elementary school, and hence the teacher, who could not pronounce Siranni, gave us the name Serene. My paternal grandparents could conduct business orally but could not read or write. My mother was orphaned at age six, and was raised by her grandparents in Chardon, Ohio.

Ambridge in the 1950's was a busy community, and post-World War II manufacturing remained robust. However, my father saw the handwriting on the wall when the I-79 bridge, over the Ohio River, was built with Japanese steel. The primary employer of Ambridge, The American Bridge Company, was ignored. As jobs and companies started moving to Japan and China, he accepted a job at California University of Pa. teaching physical science. Moving to a small college town improved my peer group academically and helped me to value education. My tuition at California U. was low, which allowed me to save for medical school. I was fortunate to get accepted to Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. I met my wife, Mary Bruce McKenzie (Brucie) as a classmate. She was one of 6 women in our class of 72. After 4 years in Winston-Salem, we moved to Atlanta, Ga. for 5 years of residency. Bruce did anesthesiology at Emory, and I did orthopedic surgery at Emory and Atlanta Medical Center. I began my surgical career in Statesville, NC. I worked at first in private practice, and later in a multi-specialty group. Because of my extensive continuing medical education in sports medicine, and the fact that I was team doctor for all of the county schools, I was offered a job with Penn State Sports Medicine in 2007. We loved our small NC town and its people, but I felt like I could not turn down the academic opportunity. Subsequently, we have come to find new friends, and to enjoy many opportunities available in State College.

We have 2 daughters and a son. Our lives are enriched by seven wonderful grandchildren. Currently I am retired from medicine but stay busy in this community and with our children in New York, Virginia, and Colorado.

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