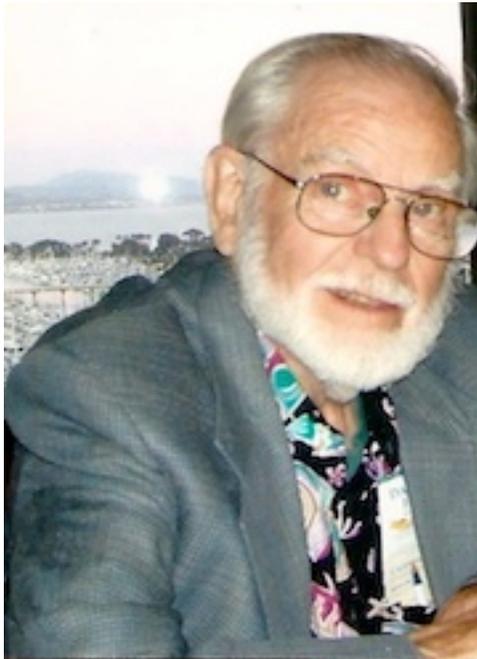


**Dr. Mike Beirne died July 31, 2012 at home in Cathedral City, CA. He was 86. His obituary and several articles are below.**

**Mike was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 8 children born to John Beirne (1900-1986) and Helen Elizabeth Kelly Beirne ((1893-1986).**



**Obituary: Towanda Daily Review**

**Dr. Michael Francis Beirne**, 86, formerly of Towanda, died peacefully at his residence on Monday, July 30, 2012 in Cathedral City, Calif.

Dr. Beirne was born in Towanda on Nov. 22, 1925. He graduated from Towanda High School in 1942, lettering in football. After graduation, Dr. Beirne helped manage and operate the family farm near Liberty Corners before attending and graduating from the University of Scranton. In 1951, Dr. Beirne received his medical degree from St. Louis University. After graduation, Dr. Beirne returned to Sayre and interned under Dr. Donald Guthrie. Thereafter, Dr. Beirne served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and

received additional medical training in Pathology. After being honorably discharged from the Army in 1957, Dr. Beirne and his family moved to Anchorage, Alaska where he established his home and practiced medicine for 54 years.

While in medical school, Dr. Beirne met Corinne Annabelle Roe of Eureka, Mont. They married in 1952 and produced seven children, two daughters, Beverly of Cathedral City, Calif. and Sally of Anchorage Alaska, and five sons, David Michael Beirne of Cathedral City, Dr. Mark Beirne married to Maureen Tschirhart of Smyrna, Ga., Paul Roe Beirne of New York City, Greg Beirne married to Nga Kim Doan of Houston, Texas, and George Robert Beirne married to Cindy West of Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Beirne was a strong believer in community service. While living in Alaska, Dr. Beirne was active in politics, working to help the Territory of Alaska to become the 49th state. He was a forensic pathologist serving as the Alaska State Medical Examiner. He was instrumental in bringing other physicians to Alaska from the "Lower 48." As both an avid small plane pilot and the only pathologist in Alaska, he flew to many of Alaska's villages. He established the Blood Bank of Alaska and functioned as its director. He was the director of laboratories for Providence Hospital, Anchorage Community Hospital and Fairbanks Hospital. He was the founder and director of the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, a consultant to both the U.S. PHS Hospital and Elmendorf Air Force Base Hospital, the owner and director of several medical laboratories in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and as a member of the Anchorage Municipal Health Commission, he served as an advisor to the Mayor and Assembly. He volunteered in many other activities and programs.

Dr. Beirne served as a member of the Alaska State Legislature. He pioneered the Alaska Homestead Act in an attempt to share some small portion of Alaska's vast government owned land with the

Alaska individual.

He was known for giving a helping hand to startup entrepreneurs. Close friends and relatives described him as a deeply caring man, always there in times of need.

During his retirement, Dr. Beirne spent his time at his homes in Anchorage, Cathedral City and Towanda.

Last week, Alaska Governor Sean Parnell ordered the Alaska flags be lowered to half-staff in honor of Dr. Beirne's contributions to that state.

In addition to his children, Dr. Beirne is survived by his longtime partner, Margie St. Anthony; his grandchildren, Annie, Betty, Sean Ryan and Ella; his brother and sister-in-law, Patrick and Carol Beirne of Towanda; his sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Patrick Barrett of Towanda; sister-in-laws, Shirley Beirne of Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. and Teresa Carola of Sayre; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Corinne A. Beirne in 1992, parents, Col. John F.A. and Helen Beirne, siblings Lt. John F. Beirne, who was killed in World War II, Attorney Robert J. Beirne, O. Thomas Beirne, Virginia M. Beirne and Dr. Daniel K. Beirne.

Condolences can be sent to Dr. Michael F. Beirne Family, c/o Sally Beirne, P.O. Box 91539, Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Pursuant to his wishes, Dr. Beirne's remains were cremated and will be distributed in Bradford County, PA and Alaska.

**Published in Daily Review on August 21, 2012**

Obituary: AND (Anchorage Daily News)

## **Alaska legislator, homestead activist, clinic founder dies**

**Michael Beirne, 86, worked for Alaskans in claiming state land.**

By MIKE DUNHAM

*(08/15/12 07:38:10)*

Former Alaska legislator Dr. Michael F. Beirne died at his home in Cathedral City, Calif., on July 30. He was 86.

Beirne was a major figure on the state's political and medical scene from the years leading up to statehood through the 1980s. He served in the Alaska House of Representatives, spearheaded a move to allow Alaskans to claim state land and founded a number of important health facilities in Anchorage.

He was born to a farming family on Nov. 22, 1925, in Towanda, Penn. He attended the University of Scranton and received his medical degree from St. Louis University in 1951. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was honorably discharged in 1957.

That year he moved to Anchorage with his family and became active in the movement to make Alaska a state. He served one term in the Legislature after being elected in 1967, then another when he was appointed to the seat vacated by Anchorage Rep. Tom Fink in 1975. He was re-elected to that seat and served until 1981. In 1986 he ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket.

He was best known as a leading proponent of a state homesteading program and the main sponsor of a 1978 voter initiative that would have given Alaskans the right to claim up to 180 acres of state land. The Beirne homestead initiative passed handily but was ruled unconstitutional by the Alaska Supreme Court.

As a doctor, he worked to recruit medical personnel to the state and to establish medical facilities. He was a developer of the Medical Arts Building, Northern Lights Clinic and the Lake Otis Building in what is now known as the "U-Med" district of Anchorage. He established the first Blood Bank of Alaska and was its director for 15 years. He owned or directed several laboratories in Anchorage and Fairbanks, including those at Providence Alaska, Anchorage Community and Fairbanks hospitals. He was the founder and director of the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center.

He served five years on the Anchorage Municipal Health Commission and was the Alaska state medical examiner in forensic pathology for many years. In fact, he was the only pathologist in Alaska and flew to many villages in his own plane to conduct investigations.

Beirne was preceded in death by his wife, Corinne (Roe), who died in 1992. He is survived by their seven children, numerous grandchildren and his longtime partner Margie St. Anthony.

Anchorage Daily News

## **Governor orders flags lowered for Beirne**

*(08/17/12 08:26:33)*

JUNEAU -- Gov. Sean Parnell has ordered that state flags be flown at half-staff Friday in honor of the late Alaska state Rep. Michael Beirne.

Beirne died last month at the age of 86.

Parnell says Beirne was a gifted doctor whose dedication to advancing medical services and personnel in Alaska remains one of his legacies. Beirne established the first Blood Bank of Alaska and founded the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center.

Beirne served two stints in the Alaska Legislature. He served one term following his election in 1967, and he served from 1975 to

1981, after initially being appointed to the seat vacated by Anchorage Rep. Tom Fink.

## **Opinion: AND**

### **Our view: Al Adams, Mike Beirne old players pass from scene remind Alaskans of our history**

*(08/15/12 19:54:01)*

Alaskans are saying goodbye this week to two political and community players who had major roles in the state's history. Longtime legislator and lobbyist Al Adams died at 70 after a long illness. Adams was a force in the Alaska Legislature for 20 years, an advocate for meeting rural and Native needs and a quiet, intelligent lawmaker who had the respect and affection of his colleagues.

One year, when he was feeling on the outs in the state Senate, he commented that he could be ignored for most of the session. But before it's over, he said, they'll need me.

Adams, once a Senate Finance Committee chairman, knew how the system worked and how the game was played. He also showed some other lawmakers how it was done, and tempered a sometimes tough process with a sense of humor.

Dr. Mike Beirne died at 86, and his death brought back for many longtime Alaskans the battle over the Beirne Initiative, his drive to get land into the hands of Alaskans in the '70s and early '80s. Beirne won at the polls, lost in court, but then won at least a partial victory in the Legislature when more land, from remote sites to subdivision plots, became available to Alaskans -- though on a far smaller scale than he envisioned.

The politician was also a doctor, and in that profession he made arguably greater contributions to Alaska -- starting the blood bank, founding the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center,

developing medical facilities that became part of the U-Med district.

Land was his passion in politics, however, and he remained frustrated well into old age by the state's failure to put about 30 million acres in individual Alaskans' hands.

Adams and Beirne came from very different backgrounds, but both made their marks on a young state. Their passing is, among other things, a reminder of old battles and the Alaskans who fought them. As we give our condolences to their families and friends, we remember both the men and the history they made.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Alaska loses two more old leaders who made their marks in more ways than one.