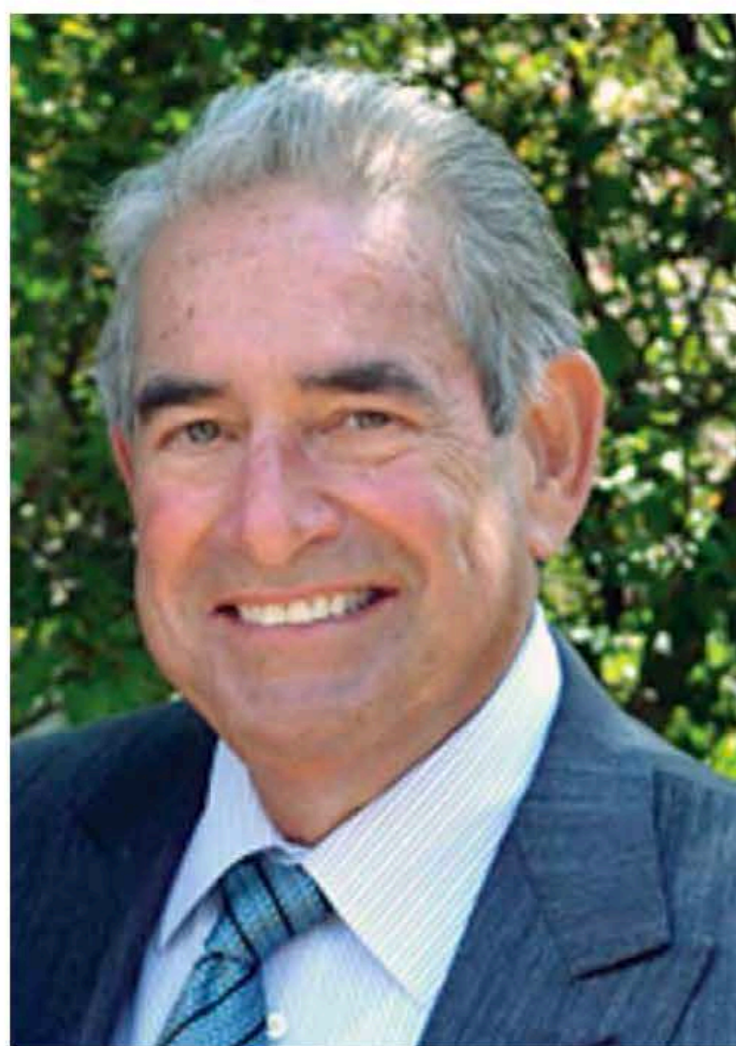


# Alumni Board Special Recognition Award

## Michael Zabell, D.D.S. '70



- Born into a family of dentists. His father, Manny S. Zabell, earned his D.D.S. in 1943 from the Western Reserve University School of Dentistry, and he had two uncles who were dentists.
- Joined his father in a private practice in Shaker Heights, and ultimately performed general and reconstructive dentistry there for more than 30 years. He retired in 2008.
- Did not aspire to be an educator, but became involved in teaching "kind of accidentally."
- "Dr. Zabell is the embodiment of what it is to be a dentist," Dr. Cynthia Mikula said. "In addition to being a talented clinician, he has inspired me to take an active role in promoting dentistry by mentoring dental students and encouraging new dentists to take pride in their wonderful profession."
- His practice became an extension of his teaching, as he often invited students to his office to witness dentistry in action outside of the school.
- Has served as a preceptor in the CWRU School of Dental Medicine Department of Comprehensive Care for over 30 years.
- "I look back on my days at dental school and remember that I appreciated how I was treated by certain teachers much more than others," he laughs, "so I always treat my students with respect. I try to sit chairside and demonstrate techniques, which is the way I always learned best," Zabell says.