Happy 90th birthday, Dr. Len Linkow!

By Dr. David L. Hoexter
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Dr. Len Linkow celebrated his 90th birthday recently in a big birthday bash hosted by his beautiful daughter, Sheree. Fellow dentists and other friends came from all over the world to honor, celebrate and share the moment. Prominent among the attendees were his grandchildren. A photo of his recent great-granddaughter brought glowing smiles to everyone. To be asked to sit at the head table next to him was an honor for me and my wife. Better yet, seeing Len so vital, alert and sharp was a delight.

Going around the room, Len exchanged vignettes about each of the attendees with humor and aplomb, and the attendees reciprocated. Len is known as the father of oral implantology. As Dr. Carl Misch related to us by video, Len never claimed that he invented implants, but he championed the field, and he is known by this title. He has devoted his professional life to implantology and has written 22 educational books on it. In earlier years, he tirelessly traveled all over the world promoting the concept of implantology, carrying with him boxes of Kodachrome slides. That’s right, slides! Not the easier computer visuals of today, but boxes of slides to show dentists in countries that did not have the opportunity to visualize the actual possibilities. What some may not know, too, is that Len was one of three doctors who formed the first esthetic dental society it was a very happy day for me to celebrate Len’s birthday with him, and I am looking forward to celebrating his 100th. Happy birthday, Len!