

Dr. James H. Mahoney Memorial Endowment

Dr. J. H. “Doc” Mahoney was a member of the original Community College Foundation board of directors. He was instrumental in urging the Devils Lake School Board to purchase the 70 acres of land upon which the present campus sits. For his foresight and support, Dr. Mahoney was named to the LRSC Hall of Fame in 2000.

Born in Mercy Hospital on April 25, 1918, to Howard and Myrtle Blaufuss Mahoney at Devils Lake, North Dakota, Jim was a three-and-a-half-pound premature baby. When taken home by his mother, he was kept warm in a shoebox in an oven.

Jim grew up on the family farm near Tolna. He attended a one-room schoolhouse and graduated from Lakota High School in 1936. After attending NDSU, Jim transferred to UND to study medicine and completed his medical studies at Northwestern University in Chicago. He married Audrey Wells during his residency in Denver, Colorado. They had seven children—Patter, Kathleen, Tim, Mary, John, Tracy, and Sharon.

Enlisting in the US Army in 1944, Jim was a captain in General Patton’s 3rd Army. His 120th Evacuation Hospital was the first to provide treatment to the inmates of Buchenwald Concentration Camp as the war ended. In 1946, he returned to Devils Lake to begin his

practice as a general practitioner and surgeon. Dr. Mahoney was a member of the North Dakota State Senate from 1961 through



1966. He was president of the OB-GYN Association, started the Family Practice Society of North Dakota in 1955, and was named Physician of the Year and given the Community Service Award by the North Dakota Medical Association in 1981. He was the first president of the Devils Lake Skating Club and served on the Devils Lake School Board from 1948 to 1958. He was mayor of Devils Lake from 1978 to 1982.

In 1985, Dr. Mahoney married Yvonne McGauley,

and they enjoyed 19 years together, spending winters in Mexico and many hours playing competitive bridge throughout the nation.

More than anything, Jim loved his family and friends. He was blessed with an adventurous spirit but never lost his deep ties to the family farm and enormous love and respect for nature, wildlife, and the great outdoors. He was qualified as a life master bridge player.

Yvonne Mahoney wanted to honor her husband’s life-long commitment to education and his service to his community. Her gift to establish the Dr. James Mahoney Memorial Endowment will help deserving students reach their education goals. ✦