

Dental Scholarship Honors Memory of Dr. Charlie Gurtler



A new scholarship honoring long-time local dentist and leader Dr. Charlie Gurtler is being offered for the first time since a fund was established in his name in 2006.

The Dr. Charles W. "Charlie" Gurtler Memorial Dental Scholarship is open to continuing college students who have earned a bachelor's degree and are pursuing a degree in the field of dentistry.

Dr. Gurtler was a highly respected practicing dentist

in Wisconsin Rapids for 40 years. He retired in 1999. His family and friends established this fund upon his death in February 2006 at age 71, as a memorial to help perpetuate the profession he loved so much.

Dr. Gurtler was born on July 21, 1934, in Wisconsin Rapids. He had a long and illustrious athletic and academic career at both Lincoln High School and the University of Minnesota. He graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1958.

"Doc really enjoyed life. He loved his wife and family very much. He enjoyed helping his patients at his dental clinic. He also loved Wisconsin Rapids and Wood County," said his son, Paul. "He was a real champion of the citizen-taxpayer. He had many God-given talents that he fully shared with others. He was certainly a one-of-a-kind man who won't be forgotten any time soon."

Dr. Gurtler returned to Wisconsin Rapids and married his lifetime love, Sharon "Sherry" Gurtler. Together they raised their four children: Kerry (Gurtler) Ninneman, Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Paul R. Gurtler, and Melanie (Gurtler) Gauthier. When Sherry passed away in 2002, Dr. Gurtler, his family and friends established the Sherry Gurtler Memorial Nursing Scholarship in her honor.

In addition to his successful dental practice, Dr. Gurtler was heavily involved in many civic, fraternal, religious, organizations, including The Elks and Knights of Columbus. His civic engagement also included serving on the Wood County Board of Supervisors for two decades, serving as Board Chairman for two separate terms.

Dr. Gurtler enjoyed hunting, fishing, cooking, singing and world travel with his loving wife, Sherry. To apply for these scholarships, and others, go to: www.incouragecf.org.

Contributors to the Dr. Charles W. Gurtler Memorial Dental Scholarship (given in 2006)

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 Mr. Joel Borowiec
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 Wood County Criminal Justice Task Force
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