



In Memoriam

Dr. McKay was AAP, AMSPDC president



Dr. McKay

Remembered as a pediatric “omnologist” for his knowledge in all areas of pediatrics and as a lifelong mentor, **Robert James McKay Jr., M.D., FAAP**, of Shelburne, Vt., died of natural causes Nov. 23 at age 95.

Dr. McKay served as AAP president in 1970-'71. He also served as District I chair and alternate chair, chair of the Committee on Medical Education and Council on Pediatric Education, and Vermont Chapter president.

He had served as an editorial board member, assistant editor and associate editor of *Pediatrics*, and was a past editor-in-chief of *Pediatrics in Review*. He also was editor of *Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics*.

At University of Vermont College of Medicine (UVM), Dr. McKay was the founder and first chair of the Department of Pediatrics from 1950-'83. He took students and residents along while seeing patients, teaching them to remember the importance of being gentle, respectful, understanding, sympathetic and kind (referred to as GRUSK).

“His spirit remains in all of us who knew him, learned from him and in turn can hope to teach others as Jim has taught us so that his pediatric legacy carries on,” said Lewis R. First, M.D., FAAP, professor and UVM pediatrics department chair.

Dr. McKay retired as professor emeritus, UVM Department of Pediatrics in 1987.

A member of many professional organizations, he served as president of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairmen and New England Pediatric Society, was American Pediatric Society recorder/editor and member of numerous medical advisory committees.

Among honors, Dr. McKay received the AAP Clifford G. Grulee Award in 1981 for outstanding leadership and the Abraham Jacobi Memorial Award in 1984 from the Academy and American Medical Association for long-term notable contributions. He also was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Vermont Medical Society.

Dr. McKay received his M.D. from Harvard in 1943. He completed an internship at Babies Hospital of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in 1943 and a residency at Boston Children's Hospital in 1948. He was a captain in the Marine Corps from 1944-'46, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for service as battalion surgeon in World War II during the Battle of the Bulge.

His hobbies included traveling, fishing, cutting wood and tending to a garden on his family farm in Williston, Vt.

Preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Foote McKay, he is survived by his second wife, Martha Ann Wellman, four sons, 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

— Trisha Koriath