



Bernard J. Burke, M.D. '3/43 Distinguished Alumnus 1998

Dr. Burke was surprised to learn he had been chosen to receive this award, surprised that doing what he loved best for nearly 60 years qualified him for this distinction. But that is why he was chosen. Dr. Bernard Burke served as family physician in the town of Little Falls, New York, since he graduated from Medical School in 1943. He was known for his compassion, kindness and humility.

Recently, the library at the Benton Hall Academy in Little Falls was named the Dr. Bernard J. Burke Library in his honor. Joan Carrig, vice president of the Little Falls Board of Education said at the dedication, "Public education is founded on the belief that educated people benefit us all. Dr. Burke

is living proof of the powerful impact that one educated person can have on an entire community." From his loyal office staff we learned that Dr. Burke treated thousands of patients regardless of age, situation or ability to pay. When he was needed, he was there. He didn't always get payment for his treatment, but he was always paid with gratitude and love from his patients.

Just prior to the presentation of this award and the traditional gold-handled cane, Dr. Burke suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. On Thursday, October 29, 1998, Dr. Burke died, but the legacy of his service as a compassionate physician lives on. The award was accepted by his long-time friend and classmate Ed Swift, M.D. '3/43.