

GUSTAVE P. MILKEY , M.D. BIOGRAPHY



Excellence, integrity, leadership and responsibility – these are just some of the words that signify Gustave P. Milkey, M.D.'s life (1917-1998) of caring for his family, patients and community. No task he undertook was completed without his best effort. The merit based scholarship that has been designed by his family reflects his desire to strive for excellence in all facets of life. Beginning in the year 2000, the Gustave P. Milkey, M.D., Class of March 1943 and Janet B. Milkey Scholarship will be awarded to a top second-year medical student regardless of need.

At the top of Dr. Milkey's priorities was education. From his beginnings in a one-room school house in his native Montague City, Massachusetts, he succeed in pleasing his parents by excelling in his studies. This continued through high school where he graduated among the top students and was awarded a full scholarship to many top universities. He chose Syracuse University, where he became a pre-med major. Again at the top of his class, he began medical school at Syracuse, graduated in the top five in his class and was selected to the Phi Chi Medical Fraternity. Always aware of the value of education, he became an Associate Professor of Surgery at the College of Medicine of SUNY at Buffalo (in addition to his private practice) in order to give medical students the benefit of his experience and expertise.

Although very busy with private practice after internship at Buffalo General Hospital and residency in three Buffalo hospitals (Buffalo General, E.J. Meyer Hospital and Millard Filmore Hospital), which was interrupted by four years in the Army Medical Corps during WWI, Dr. Milkey took time to serve his profession by sitting on numerous committees

and boards. Among the more noted of his leadership service were past presidencies of the Kenmore Mercy Hospital, the Buffalo Surgical Society and the Western NY Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. It was his nature to strive to make a difference in the profession he practiced with skill and care.

His leadership capabilities were forged early in his life through organizations in his school community and participation in sports. He served as class president for four years during his time at Turner's Falls High School, was a member of the class Executive Committee in college and was elected Vice President of his medical class four years in a row. Sports also gave him a chance to show his drive for excellence since he was a "three letter man" in high school and a member of the Syracuse University football team for two years until sidelined with an injury. For Dr. Milkey, participation in any activity could be enhanced by excelling at it and working to give others the opportunity to excel too.

His family life began with his marriage to Janet Brunton in 1943, with whom he shared his life for 53 years. Two children came along: Susan in 1948 and Edward in 1950. Busy with a thriving private practice, many professional obligations and community organizations, Dr. Milkey still found time to spend skiing, boating, golfing, and traveling with his family. His pride in his wife's and children's achievements showed how much his own desire to excel became part of the family's lifestyle. He taught his family not to become burdened by life's problems, but to celebrate the challenge of solving those problems. These life lessons are not lost on his grandchildren: Sara, Douglas, Edward Jr. and Alexa with whom he enjoyed spending time after his retirement.

From very humble beginnings in Massachusetts, to waiting on tables in college, to a busy private surgical practice, Dr. Milkey knew the value of working hard and responsibly to achieve goals. He never stopped learning or reading because he knew that education was the key to success. For this he earned the respect and admiration of his family, friends and colleagues.