

**David Arthur Barrett
(Posthumous)
Lecturer, Adjunct Professor
Class of 1945**



High School friends of Dave Barrett recall a big, gentle, young man who loved football and starred at the game. He was inspired by his coaches, and his innate sense of fair play and honesty was strengthened under their guidance. His generation found its youth interrupted by World War II, and he graduated early to join the Navy in 1945. Following his service he got a BS from B.U. and then a Master of Science in hospital administration from Columbia University.

"Distinguished" is the first word that comes to mind when reviewing David Barrett's career in the health care industry. "Dedicated" is the second. At a ceremony honoring him for his service he was called "a mountain of a man," and Bob Ristino, public relations director at Memorial Hospital at the time, went on to cite both his size and his character as he noted his remarkable contributions. As president and CEO of the former Worcester Memorial Hospital, he guided it through two decades of growth and development, after which he was instrumental in the merger between Worcester Memorial, Hahnemann and Holden hospitals, from which emerged the Medical Center of Central Massachusetts. He then assumed leadership of the Center.

Throughout these years he was a committed and prominent presence in the health care scene in Massachusetts. He chaired the Massachusetts Hospital Association in 1974-1975, and served the

Association faithfully and well for many years. He served two terms in the American Hospital Association house of delegates. He held positions with the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Central Massachusetts, Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the Board of Registration in Nursing and the Worcester Area Systems for Affordable Health Care.

The education of health care professionals was another of David Barrett's interests. He was an adjunct clinical professor in the nursing program at Worcester State College, and a lecturer in the Health Care Management program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and in the Master of Health Administration program at Clark University. At Clark he was also on the Visiting Committee of the Graduate School of Management.

In truth, the list of his positions and accomplishments is far too long for this space, but his efforts on behalf of the Worcester Girls Club must be noted. Once again, his service was lengthy (1978-1990) and dedicated. He served as a member of the Investment Committee and was among the Club's greatest and most skilled supporters.

Needham High School is honored to posthumously award its Distinguished Career Award to David Arthur Barrett, a graduate who chose to use his outstanding abilities in service to his country and his community.

We also wish to thank Mrs. Barrett for her gracious assistance in preparing this article.

S. G. G.