Dr. Pomeroy...Remembered and Honored

“Dr. Pomeroy was a leader in local, state and national organizations dedicated to veterinary medicine,” says Dean Jeffrey S. Klausner. “He was a driving force at the legislature on behalf of veterinary medicine and the University of Minnesota.” Yet for many friends, colleagues, students and acquaintances, he was so much more.

As a professor at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, he inspired students to embrace life-long learning as a veterinarian. He was tireless in sharing his knowledge with others, regardless of the time of day or night. Yet, somehow he found time to publish more than 450 articles on avian disease and advise 36 M.S. and 31 Ph.D. candidates during his career.

His research laid the foundation for the control and eradication of several diseases of turkeys. Further, his work was instrumental in making Minnesota the largest state in turkey production. Today, Minnesotans are recognized as leaders nationally in the disease control for poultry, thanks to Dr. Pomeroy.

He received more than 30 awards and honors during his career, including the Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture in 1999 and a Doctor of Science honorary degree, the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota in 2001.

Four years later, a bonding request was introduced at the Minnesota State Legislature to renovate the Old Dairy Barn on the St. Paul campus in his honor, as a living testament to his tireless work on behalf of veterinary medicine. The renovation is scheduled to begin in 2006. It is named in his honor, as the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center.

A Champion of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Pomeroy served as secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Association and belonged to nearly every local, state and national professional organization involving veterinary medicine and the turkey and poultry industry.

“He started and chaired a committee that helped many states address poultry disease control measures,” according to former student Dr. Peter Poss. “Ben was my mentor and gave me so many tools that I used throughout my career.”
Others will recall how he could remember names of people he had only briefly met. His good cheer was contagious and he warmly greeted acquaintances as friends.

“The skills, along with his keen mind and sharp wit served the veterinary profession well,” recalls Dr. Walter Mackey, “whether he was teaching students, working with state agencies that affected his profession or sharing insights with local or state legislators.”

Dr. Pomeroy retired as professor emeritus in 1981 from the department of Veterinary Microbiology and Public Health at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, after serving the university for 47 years. He was a board-certified microbiologist. Dr. Pomeroy died January 16, 2004, at the age of 92.

*The Pomeroy legacy... and the return on investment for donors*

Your gift to the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum will honor Dr. Pomeroy and provide for a return of investment for the future. With your help, we will establish and furnish the Pomeroy and Honors Galleries in the new Pomeroy Center. We will also establish a permanent part-time curator position to maintain the Museum and these galleries.

The legacy of Dr. Pomeroy and other Minnesota veterinarians will be preserved and future veterinarians will learn about their legacies. Through the work and dedication of Dr. Pomeroy and many other veterinarians in Minnesota and nationally, major accomplishments include disease control and eradication in the poultry and animal livestock industry.

Further, the Pomeroy Chair in Avian Health, a permanent position funded several years ago, was the first endowed chair at the College. It was also the first chair in veterinary poultry health in the U.S., an increasingly significant area of veterinary interest today.

Significant in the legacy of the Pomeroy career was his leadership in fostering cooperation between government regulatory veterinary medicine and the industry to control and eradicate disease. He earned the trust of the poultry industry through his research, dedication, service and integrity. He was successful in developing trust between industry and government so that agreement on control and eradication methods, rules and procedures could be established. This cooperation is ongoing and has been a model for other states and other livestock groups.

Friends, colleagues and others would agree: It is wonderful that he is now being remembered and honored with a learning center that shares his name.

*Here’s How You Can Help…*

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the Museum at 612 625-7770. Thank you!

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