

Vernon H. Plager, M.D. Memorial Scholarship



Amount: \$500

Offered: One per year

Deadline: Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application

Established: 1988

Special Criteria: Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, preference may be given to a graduate of a Waterloo high school.

This scholarship was established in memory of Vernon Plager, MD by his wife, Dorothy (Dottie), to make it possible for a deserving person to pursue a career in nursing.

Dr. Vernon Plager died January 31, 1988, following a lengthy illness. He was born May 8, 1919, in Grundy Center and married Dottie Hostetter on September 25, 1944. They had two sons, David and Robert, and three daughters, Kathy, Karen and Patty.

Healthcare runs in the Plager family. Dr. Plager graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1943. He served as an intern and resident in internal medicine at Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and as a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Women's Hospital in Detroit. Dr. Plager was an obstetrician/gynecologist and practiced in Waterloo for 37 years. Before they moved to Waterloo, Dottie practiced nursing in Detroit.

All three daughters are nurses—two of whom graduated from Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. Dottie later demonstrated her continued commitment to area healthcare through two volunteer terms, or six years, on the Allen Foundation board.

Dr. Plager was a member of the Board of Directors of Allen Memorial Hospital and past president of its medical staff. He was appointed to the medical staff at Allen in 1951 and was also on staff at Sartori Memorial Hospital and Covenant Medical Center. He was named medical director for the Allen Family Planning and Maternal Health Clinic (now known as Allen Women's Health Center) in 1985.

Dr. Plager was past president of the Black Hawk County Medical Society, past president and secretary of the Iowa Clinical Surgical Society and a past board member of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and the Minnie Crippen Home.

"I wanted to honor Vern, and OB was the love of his life," Dottie said. "He loved to bring those babies into the world. Healthcare professionals are kind and generous and compassionate, and they love what they're doing. Especially nurses. They don't like to see people suffer, so they reach out. It takes a special kind of person."