

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS EUGENE FARLEY

Eugene S. Farley MD MPH, Emeritus Professor of Family Medicine died in Madison on November 9, 2013 at age 86 in the company of members of his family and local community. Dr. Farley led a distinguished career as one of the founders of the discipline of family medicine in the United States. Dr. Farley was Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the UW Medical School from 1982-92 and prior to that, was Professor and Chair at the University of Colorado. He began his academic career at the University of Rochester where he was Founding Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Highland hospital. Prior to his academic career, Gene and his wife Dr. Linda Farley practiced on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona with Kurt Dueschle, and in Trumansburg, NY, where they began to raise their five sons.

Professor Farley was one of a very small cadre of extraordinary people who served as the founding members of the first post graduate family medicine residency programs in the United States in 1969. As a leader in the Rochester program and later as Chair at the University of Wisconsin, Professor Farley had the distinction of being the only person to lead two of the first fifteen family medicine programs in the United States during his career.

Professor Farley's influence on the emerging discipline of family medicine was extraordinary. He was a leader in developing curriculum for students and residents in community practice, emphasizing families, social systems, and the longitudinal relationships with patients – a curriculum which came to be adopted as essential values of training and practice. For this work, he received the Certificate of Excellence in Education from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Over his 40 year career, he trained leaders of the academic discipline, producing Chairs, Deans, and presidents of Academic Societies. He set the research agenda for family medicine, using what he called “the laboratory of primary care practices” as the focus for scholarship. His vision for Practiced Based Research Networks (PBRN's) and his support for building the first and most successful network in the United States – the Ambulatory Sentinel Practice Network – based in Colorado - were the basis of his being awarded the Curtis G. Hames Award by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine which recognizes a lifetime of scholarship in research.

At the University of Wisconsin, he strengthened the statewide network of residency education in family medicine and led the Department to become one of the largest and most successful in the country. He created a practice and community based research program in the Department that helped it to become one of the top five NIH funded departments of family medicine for over a decade. He recruited faculty members who became associate or assistant deans in the SMPH and a one of the first family physicians to be inducted into the Institute of Medicine.

In 1995, the Department established the Eugene and Linda Farley Visiting Professorship. Professor Farley's worldwide recognition as an inspirational leader and advocate has attracted a continuing series of remarkable scholars and scientists, including David Satcher MD PhD who at the time was past director of the Centers for Disease Control and sitting US Surgeon General who insisted on coming to honor Professor Farley who he considered to be one of his early mentors.

Professor Farley and his wife Dr. Linda Farley were widely known over their lifetimes as outspoken advocates for social justice and universal access to primary health care. Their indefatigable work on behalf of the poor and underserved inspired generations of students and physicians to carry similar values into their careers. And despite his passionate advocacy, he brought respect into any interaction, whether with a sympathetic or unsympathetic colleague. His uncommon decency and belief in the possibility of a better society made him a person who could argue with someone and still retain their admiration. His encouragement of local and national political figures to work hard for expanded health care, particularly primary care, was a factor in moving the discussion of a national

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health system farther along than most had hoped was possible. In this regard, his best role was to be supportive to his wife of 54 years who was a very effective and outspoken leader of the movement for a national health system.

After Dr. Linda Farley's death in 2009, Professor Farley and his sons established the Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability and the Natural Path Sanctuary on their beautiful 43-acre rural property in the Town of Springdale near Verona. The vibrant Center includes a farm incubator that promotes income generating farming programs, a nature preserve, meeting space for social justice groups, and a natural burial ground where Professor Farley and Linda are buried.

Professor Farley had a profound effect on the evolution of family medicine and a profound effect on his own community. He is remembered for his passionate commitment to promote the health of communities, his rigorous research in primary health care, and his influence on the history of modern family medicine education in the 20th century. His legacy lives on through the leaders he has trained and inspired. But as important to him, were his local friendships, advocacy for local and community change, and his aspirations for social justice, environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Respectfully submitted by Drs. John Frey, Cynthia Haq and Melissa Stiles
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September 22, 2014

A national tribute to Dr. Farley has been published in the journal *Family Medicine: Fam Med.* 2014 Feb;46(2):137-8. <http://www.stfm.org/FamilyMedicine/Vol46Issue2/Green137>