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**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Frederick Stamm Brightbill**

Frederick Stamm Brightbill, MD, was a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences from 1993 to 2000. During his time in the department, he served as director of the Cornea and External Disease service, Director of the Cornea Fellowship-training program and Director of the University of Wisconsin Regional Laser Center. Upon leaving the University in 2000, he was the founding Medical Director at Brightbill/Ericson Eye Associates New Vision Laser Center in Rockford, Illinois.

He passed away on March 4, 2015.

Dr. Brightbill was born January 13, 1939, the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Stamm) Brightbill. He attended the University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago and graduated in 1964. He served in the U.S. Public Health Service from 1965 to 1967 as Chief Medical Officer, Federal Correctional Institution, Tallahassee, Florida.

He married Dixie (deceased) and they had four children, Tim, Paul, Susan and Jenny. In 1993, he married Courtney Moffatt and embraced her children, Ashley and Trevor.

Dr. Brightbill completed his residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin in 1971. He completed a fellowship in Cornea and External Disease as a Heed Fellow at the University of Florida, Gainesville in 1972. Prior to his full time appointment as Professor in 1993, he served the Department as Clinical Assistant, Associate, and Professor from 1972.

He was a tall, gentle man with a big heart, who loved his family as he loved providing the gift of sight through cornea transplantation. He was unyielding in his service to patients. He was not the first nor the last to adopt new medications or surgical techniques: however, demonstration of improved patient care or outcome was paramount prior to his conviction to change. His surgical ability was remarkable. Only a handful of cornea transplant surgeons would consider similar technique to his aesthetically pleasing double running suture for cornea transplantation. His patient centered care was also evident in his textbook, *Cornea Surgery: Theory, Technique and Tissue*. He was the sole editor through to the most recent 4<sup>th</sup> edition. He poured over each chapter to ensure the published version would be authoritative, comprehensive, and direct the reader so as to maximize patient outcome. He was the founding Medical Director of the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and received the R. Townley Paton, MD Award from the Eye Bank Association of America for his contribution to the science of Eye Banking and service to the organization. His teaching was exemplary in lectures, the clinic setting and in the operating room. He conveyed the principles of ophthalmic microsurgery in a clear and concise manner. His enthusiasm for teaching did not wane. Over the decades of the 80s and 90s he received 5 teaching awards from the residents in Ophthalmology. Mentorship of young faculty was important to Dr. Brightbill. If he never said a word and junior faculty had only his example from which to learn, they would be rich in the ways of patient care, teaching and research.

Most important was family, fly fishing, art, and the Wisconsin Badger athletic teams. Within minutes of a phone call from an ill child, he started the 4-hour trip to see them in person. His

support for the Badger athletic teams was infectious. Just as he knew a good lens implant to select for his patients, he also knew a winner when a new coach arrived at the university.

For those of us who worked with and learned from him, a great light has dimmed. We may always reflect back on what he taught and how he cared for patients. His textbook continues to illuminate the discipline of cornea transplant surgery enabling many to continue to provide the gift of sight as Dr. Brightbill has done.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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