Remembering Dr. Patrick E. Brookhouser

As hearts weigh heavy on the loss of a great visionary, we remember and honor the work of Patrick E. Brookhouser, M.D., Executive Vice President of Health Care Programs at Boys Town and Director of Boys Town National Research Hospital.

He was an innovator, a visionary, an esteemed physician and an inspirational teacher. A man of great faith, he cherished his family, his colleagues and the thousands of patients he treated throughout his medical career.

Dr. Brookhouser was a gifted physician and surgeon and a steward of Father Flanagan’s dream to help children. He has been recognized by his medical colleagues here and across the U.S. for his contributions to the field of otolaryngology and otology, along with the groundbreaking research he initiated in the treatment and prevention of hearing loss and other communication disorders, especially in children.

A visionary, Dr. Brookhouser was the Founding Director of the Hospital in 1972. Since that time, the Hospital has provided care and treatment to more than 300,000 patients from across the USA and a number of foreign countries. It is one of the most influential specialty hospitals and research institutes in the world.

Dr. Brookhouser was President and CEO of the Lied Learning and Technology Center for Childhood Deafness and Vision Disorders in Omaha and for over a quarter century served as Father Edward J. Flanagan Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology and Human Communication at Creighton University School of Medicine.

An advocate for both medical education and research, Dr. Brookhouser’s national leadership roles have included: Chair of the Residency Review Committee for Otolaryngology, a Director of the American Board of Otolaryngology, membership on the National Advisory Councils for both the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, and President of both the Triological Society and the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology.

An Iowa native, Dr. Brookhouser received his Bachelor of Science Degree (summa cum laude) from Creighton University and was awarded his Doctor of Medicine Degree by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, as well as a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national Jesuit Honor Society and the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha. He was also honored by induction into the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars and by the Distinguished Alumnus Award given by the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association.

Dr. Brookhouser held the rank of Knight Commander in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and is a member of the Omaha Archbishop’s Committee for Development.

Dr. Brookhouser and his wife of 45 years, the late Judith (Baker) Brookhouser, have three grown children, Patrick, Jr. and twins Deborah and David, as well as two grandchildren all living in Omaha. Dr. Brookhouser was married to Maria (Sauer) Brookhouser.