

We are happy to name Norbert Koopman as the 66th inductee in the Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Dean Norbert Koopman was nominated by his children, David Koopman and Patricia (Koopman) Kluetz

Even before moving his family to Marshfield in 1964, Dr. Koopman was instrumental in locating the Wood County campus of the University of Wisconsin in Marshfield. His completion of a PhD several years before the campus opened made him eligible to be the first Dean of the Marshfield campus, a position that he held until he retired in 1986. His involvement with the campus continued for several more years as he taught evening classes in introductory algebra.

He was most proud of the impressive faculty across all disciplines that were attracted to UW-Marshfield Wood County, and stayed for their entire careers, establishing a rich academic tradition.

Dr. Koopman was actively involved in promoting outreach of the arts and sciences to the people of central Wisconsin throughout his tenure as dean. The campus had an impressive array of programs available during those times. Perhaps one of the more memorable ones, however, was in the performing arts which presented a wide range of theatrical performances over the years. While serving as dean, Dr. Koopman oversaw the first major expansion of the Marshfield campus from its initial single three wing building to its three-building configuration which included a gymnasium, a proper library, and the theater that became home to the many productions that subsequently were featured there.

While he was dean, Dr. Koopman was active in the local Rotary Club. He rose to the position of President while in the club. He did international outreach to Rotary Clubs in other countries, and even visited some of them when he was abroad.

Dr. Koopman was also involved in the Lutheran Church. He was initially a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church, before transferring the family's membership to Christ Lutheran Church. He served as an usher, a member of church committees, and in the church choir. His son, David (MHS, class of '72) also served as an usher with him for a time.

Dr. Koopman managed to find time for one major recreational activity – that was golf. He played on the older (shorter) Marshfield Country Club before its expansion from nine holes to 18 holes (which included many changes to the existing course). He was a member of Westview Country Club (now known as River Edge Golf Course) and regularly played in the Thursday night men's league. He managed to play at most of the public golf courses within fifty miles of Marshfield over the years.



Dr. Koopman came to Marshfield with a wife and two school-age children. His wife, Phyllis, was an integral part of his and her own involvement and commitment in the community. His son, David and his daughter, Patricia, both graduated from Marshfield Senior High. Each subsequently attended the UW-Marshfield Wood County campus for a time before going on to get bachelor's degrees (David at UW Madison in 1976 and Patricia at UW-Stout in 1979)

Dr. Koopman and his wife continued to reside in Marshfield in retirement. He had a major setback when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. This was treated aggressively and successfully at the Marshfield Medical Center, and he lived another 14 years before it re-emerged and combined with other factors to take his life in 2004. His wife survived him until suffering a severe stroke and passing away shortly afterwards in 2007.

More than 8,000 students took advantage of educational opportunities offered through the UW Marshfield-Wood County Center while Dr. Koopman served as its dean. He is remembered for the steady guidance he provided and for always having the good of the campus and the community in mind at all times,