

We are happy to name William P. Pors the 70th inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. William Pors was nominated by Don Schnitzler on behalf of UW Marshfield/Wood County Campus Alumni.

William P. Pors' interest, and efforts, in bringing a University of Wisconsin Extension Center to Marshfield contributed to the ultimate decision by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and the Coordinating Committee for Higher Education to place the two-year campus here. After years of debate over whether to locate in North or South Wood County the Marshfield location was announced in July 1962, with a tentative opening in the fall of 1964.

Pors, a member of Wood County's Higher Education Committee, thanked the Coordinating Committee for the favorable action on behalf of the citizens of the Marshfield area. "I assure you we know it is a trust, and we will do our best to assure the success of the center, so that it will be a matter of pride to you and to us."

Pors' efforts started with a calling committee inviting and encouraging local participation at meetings about the proposed establishment of a University of Wisconsin extension center. One such meeting held at the Willard D. Purdy School auditorium in July 1961 had over 400 people attend.

Dr. William M. Hanley, director of the university's freshman-sophomore extension system, representing the university at that meeting, said he was "impressed and surprised by the turnout" and that the fine attendance was "a tribute to your interest in the education of the young people of Wood County."

Pors actively participated by attending meetings and supporting the interest of establishing the center here in Marshfield. He was appointed to the Wood County Committee of Higher Education and served as its secretary.

His interests also led him to the chairmanship of the "Tri-County Committee of Higher Education" comprised of Wood, Clark and Taylor County residents interested in seeing the campus located in northern Wood County. This non-political group played a vital part in having the center located in Marshfield.

He also started and encouraged a massive letter-writing campaign with letters sent to the board of regents. The efforts of many people were rewarded with the approval for the center to be in Marshfield in 1962. Groundbreaking was held November 22, 1963, and the new two-year center opened for students in September 1964.

Dr. James S. Vender, chairman of the Marshfield mayor's committee on higher education, said then. "What happened here ... is the culmination of the joint efforts of all the citizens in the tri-county area," and "the many letters received by the state college regents were



undoubtedly a big factor in causing the regents to change their stand and vote in favor of Marshfield,"

William P Pors was born Oct. 2, 1925, in Marshfield. In 1955 he received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin and joined his father, Charles Miller Pors here in the firm of Pors & Pors, as the fourth generation of his family to practice law in Marshfield.

His grandfather, Emil C Pors, opened a law office here in 1886, and was joined four years later by his father, William A. Pors (great-grandfather of William P. Pors).

During 1964 William P Pors accepted a position as corporate secretary at the South Suburban Savings and Loan at Harvey, Illinois. He died August 29, 1965, of a heart attack at age 39. His widow, Ruth Mann Pors and their children, Charles, Thomas, Janice, and Richard returned to Marshfield a year later.

In 1966 the William P. Pors Outstanding Student Award was established at the University of Wisconsin Marshfield-Wood County Campus as an annual recognition presented during the convocation ceremonies.