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James W. Haviland, leader in development of UW School of Medicine, founder of Northwest Kidney Centers, dies at 96



Photo Caption: Dr. James W. Haviland.

Dr. James W. Haviland, M.D., a leader in the University of Washington School of Medicine's development, and founder with Dr. Belding Scribner of the world's first free-standing outpatient dialysis facility – the not-for-profit Northwest Kidney Centers – died of natural causes at his Bremerton, WA, home on November 14 at the age of 96.

Born in Glens Falls, NY, on July 18, 1911, Haviland completed his medical school and residency training at Johns Hopkins University. He served as Director of Services for Crippled Children at the Departments of Social Security and Health for the State of Washington in Olympia, where he met his first wife, Marion Bertram, a social worker who died in 1993. He later married in 1997 to Mary Katherine, and the couple recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. Before establishing an internal medicine private practice in Seattle, Haviland served in the U.S. Naval Reserve for four years.

In the late-1940s and early 1950s, when the newly forming University of Washington School of Medicine was taking shape, Haviland became a key liaison between the Washington State Medical Association and the medical school's administration. From 1949 to 1953, he served as assistant dean to Edward Turner, the

first dean of the UW School of Medicine, helping to unite the new medical school with community physicians. Haviland became acting dean in 1953, when Turner left his position, and took an active role in the design, construction, and funding of University Hospital (now UW Medical Center). He later served as assistant dean, as clinical professor of medicine, and as associate dean for clinical affairs from 1972-1976, while maintaining his large private practice.

“Jim Haviland’s selflessness, dedication, and remarkable spirit of innovation and collaboration speak to the very best qualities of the medical profession,” said Dr. Paul Ramsey, CEO, UW Medicine, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine. “In all of his activities, he enriched, united, and inspired the culture and community of medicine. He was a man of vision, action, and dedication – and he will be missed. “

Haviland is considered the father of the world’s first out-of-hospital dialysis treatment center, the Seattle Artificial Kidney Center, established in 1962 and known today as the Northwest Kidney Centers. In 1960, Dr. Belding Scribner and his team at the University of Washington developed the Teflon shunt that first made dialysis and long-term survival possible for patients with chronic kidney failure. The following year he called upon Haviland, then president of the King County Medical Society, for help in starting a community-supported, not-for-profit dialysis program and together they designed the world’s first out-of-hospital dialysis unit. Haviland was instrumental in marshalling wide support from community resources and leading the effort to create the life-changing and internationally emulated center.

“Dr. Haviland was the greatest asset that the Kidney Center had in its early years. His clinical sense, wisdom, political acumen and knowledge of the Seattle

community were invaluable to me when I came to the Center as Executive Director in 1971. He became my mentor, supporter and good friend who I will always remember," said Dr. Christopher Blagg, Executive Director Emeritus, Northwest Kidney Centers.

"Dr. Haviland not only founded our organization 45 years ago, remarkably he stayed active with us until the present. His deep commitment to community collaboration and innovation continues to influence us today as we live out our non-profit mission as the central community resource for kidney disease prevention, treatment and education. We will miss him deeply," said Joyce F. Jackson, president and CEO of the Northwest Kidney Centers.

Haviland served as president of the American College of Physicians in 1970-71 and was elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine in 1973. He is a recipient of the 1995 Washington Laureate Award from the Washington Chapter of the American College of Physicians, and received the Northwest Kidney Centers' first Celebration of Excellence Award in 1990, which subsequently became the annually bestowed James W. Haviland Award. He was the first president of the Northwest Kidney Centers Board of Trustees and continued to serve on the board as senior council until his death. Northwest Kidney Centers' flagship building, located at 700 Broadway in Seattle, WA, was renamed Haviland Kidney Center in 1998.

Throughout his entire professional life, Haviland served on many community-based boards and committees. He was also very active in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church; he sang in their choir and had a very melodic voice up to very end of his life. He impacted the lives of so many people, of all ages, and in all walks of life. With the assistance of his wife, Mary, Dr. Haviland also remained active in the medical community by attending meetings, events and other activities up until his death.

He is survived by his wife Mary; brother, Morrison; children, James, Elizabeth, Donald and Martha; stepchildren, Steven, Jeremy, Joshua and Sarah; grandchildren Charlene and Chrissy; six great grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 4400 86th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, Wash., on Saturday, December 1, at 1 p.m.. A "Celebration of Life" in his honor will take place on Monday, December 3, at 5 p.m. at the UW Health Sciences Center Hogness Auditorium (4th floor), 1959 NE Pacific St., Seattle, WA 98195. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be sent to the James W. Haviland Endowment at the Northwest Kidney Centers, P.O. Box 3035, Seattle, WA, 98114.

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