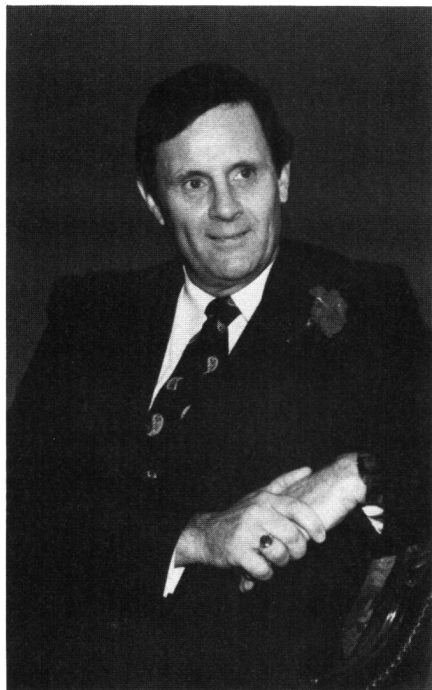


DR. JAMES K. MURRAY, MD, BSc(Med), FRCS (C), FACS, 1929-1981

An Appreciation

by
Ronald A. Dolan



Dr. James K. Murray died on April 17, 1981 in Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Murray graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1953. After completing training in neurosurgery in Toronto, he settled in Hamilton where he was a member of the active staff at Hamilton Civic Hospital (since 1962) and St. Joseph's Hospital, and Associate Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery at McMaster University. The following eulogy was presented by his colleague, Dr. Ronald Dolan at a Memorial Service in Hamilton on April 26, 1981.

The History of man, ancient through modern times, provides numerous examples of men endeavouring to serve their fellow man and thus improve the quality of life. Jim Murray was one such man and in tribute to his memory, I have set forth impressions of my friend for almost thirty years.

In one sense this is a sad time since we have been deprived of the physical presence of a man who did so much for so many in far less than the traditional "three score and ten". As some of you know, Jim did not accept this view and voiced to me in one of our all too infrequent discussions in recent months, his belief that we all have to face the challenges of life and death and deal with them, whenever they come. Jim's contributions to his family and friends, his profession, his patients and colleagues are well known to most of you. He was at heart a gentle and private man in the best sense of that description. It is true that his dedication and sense of duty made him intolerant of laxity and particularly of tardiness. Accordingly, I was occasionally the target of his righteous indignation when he per-

ceived that I was getting in the way of his constant goal of giving his very best to his patients. I got the message. Some of you, who worked with Jim and I, might think it didn't do much good.

In life and in times of good health we tend to take each other for granted and therefore miss opportunities to gain benefit from mutual interactions. Perhaps for this reason our closest relationship came about when we both realized that Jim was facing the ultimate challenge. His courage and serenity and his quiet demonstration of deep religious faith affected me in a way so profound I can scarcely express my feelings to you in any adequate fashion. All I can tell you is that I always left our personal exchanges feeling enriched and that somehow life had a new meaning and purpose. It came to me I had encountered a real man who would leave his unique mark on man's progression upward to the ultimate and infinite good which to me is the essence of immortality.

Therefore, I must reject the concept of sadness and loss. Rather this should be a time of optimism and therefore happiness. I say to you that the spirit and example of my friend Jim, lives in the hearts of Doreen, Ken, Lynn and Doug, Julie and Hugh especially, and in a different way perhaps in the thoughts of his friends and colleagues. I know from personal recent experience that his inspiration and gift of hope is very much in the hearts of the many patients whose lives have been saved or prolonged and given new meaning through his talent and skill. Therefore, though he is not with us in person, his life of Christian dedication to his fellow man will remain a part of us and we shall be the better for it.