Dr. Robert W. Fonda

Mankato resident, Dr. Robert W. Fonda, 92, died Sunday, May 18, 2014 at his home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at Woodland Hills Chapel in Mankato with Rev. Dawn Carder, officiating. Interment will be at Woodland Hills Mausoleum. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Friday at Woodland Hills Funeral Home in Mankato and will continue 1 hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Robert Ward Fonda was born April 14, 1922 in Rockwell City, Iowa. He graduated high school in 1940, Kemper Military School in 1942, the University of Iowa in 1945 where he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree. He married Lenore L. Johnson on June 2, 1945 in Iowa City, Iowa. They had three children, Steven, Susan and Sherry.

Following graduation from the University of Iowa, Dr. Fonda was immediately ordered to duty as a Naval Dental Officer on Treasure Island in San Francisco, CA. He served there until the spring of 1946. Following his release from the Naval Reserve he returned to Rockwell City and joined his father in his private dental practice.

In 1952, Dr. Fonda was recalled to military duty as a Navy Dental Officer attached to the Army. He was sent to the 130th Station Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany. After a transfer to the Brooklyn Naval Yard Clinic in New York he was discharged from the navy and returned again to private practice in Iowa.

Dr. Fonda concluded his dental practice in 1969 when he came to (then) Mankato State College to develop the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs for the school. He served as Administrator, Director, as well as clinical and classroom instructor until his retirement in 1986. Because of his dedication and hard work the program enjoyed it’s 40th year anniversary reunion in 2012.

Dr. Fonda was active in the Masonic Lodge, American Legion, Lions Club, the Presbyterian Church, Meals on Wheels, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Golden K Kiwanis, tutored English as a second language, taught AARPS 55 Alive Senior Drivers Classes, volunteered as a Friday Friend at Kennedy Elementary and the Pages Past Bookstore at the MN Valley Public Library.

Dr. Fonda will be sadly missed by many including wife, Lenore; son, Steven (Donna) of Greer, SC; daughter, Sherry Fisher (Rick) of Mankato; four granddaughters, Kelley (Matt) Nordby, Kaci Dannatt, Stephanie (Anthony) Woody, Darci (Pablo) Ponce; two grandsons, Josh (Amy) Blackman and Kyle Blackman; four great grandchildren, Sam, Ellie, Anna and Danerys. He was preceded in death by one sister and daughter, Susan Dannatt.

Memorials are preferred to Habitat for Humanity, Dental Hygiene Dept, Minnesota State University Mankato, Echo Food Shelf, Mayo Clinic Health System-Hospice (Mankato).