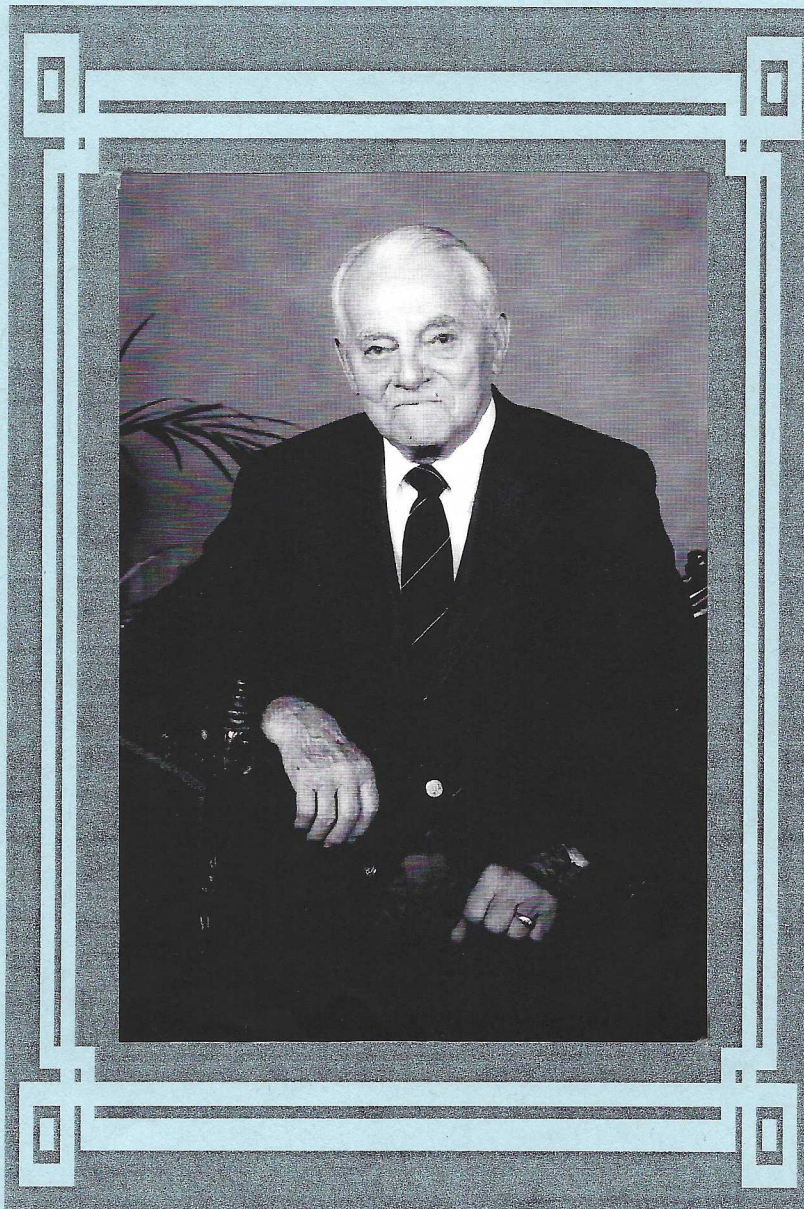




"Honoring the past to challenge the future"



2009

Fred. V. Duda

Fred V. Duda was born in Czechoslovakia, now called the Czech Republic. He and his parents, Ferdinand and Anna, immigrated from Cermna, a small agricultural village, to the U.S. and grew up in Plattsmouth. He did not know how to speak English when he started school.

Fred characterized the spirit and values of this part of the world during the time in history in which he lived. When he was in the 9th grade, his father withdrew him from school as he needed him to work to support the family. With only an 8th grade education, Fred managed to make a great success of his life. He found a job washing dishes for a restaurant chain in California. In several years he became manager of the entire chain of restaurants. He began knocking on doors for the Jewel Tea Company during the Great Depression. Within several years he became one of the company's top salesmen, managing several branch offices and eventually overseeing all the East Coast offices for the company.

He enjoyed a successful food retailing career with Jewel Tea Company spanning almost 40 years. After his initial years with Jewel Tea in the Midwest, he managed to expand the then popular home coffee route service, starting in Long Beach, CA and ultimately throughout California. Fred ultimately became an executive with Jewel in Chicago. He received many sales and leadership awards with the Jewel Tea Company as well as during his post retirement years in the real estate industry in California.

Fred's hobbies were baseball and golf. He passed away in 1992 and is survived by his son, Fritz L. Duda, his daughter, Fountiene Prince, his sister, Mary Jorgenson, 9 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren. His children chose to honor him by donating money from his investments to Plattsmouth High School to provide scholarships for students to pursue a college education, an opportunity that was not available to Fred. His integrity, his strong industrious nature, and his devotion to family are ideals that continue to guide his children and grandchildren. The Fred V. Duda scholarships are given each year to graduating seniors who exemplify those qualities and values.

Fred was a magnetic and dynamic individual who journeyed from humble beginnings in Plattsmouth to a position which allowed his family to provide financial educational assistance to many PHS graduates.



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2009

William M. Wehrbein

William is a 1966 graduate of PHS where he was in National Honor Society, Math Club, and chorus. He participated in musicals and plays. Bill went to Boys State and two National Science Foundation summer institutes at the University of Kansas. He was a member of the teams that won four consecutive division trophies at the Creighton Math Field Days and ranked 19th in the state on the National Mathematics Exam in 1966. He was a National Merit Finalist, a member of the Regents All-State Scholastic Team (ranked second in state on University of Nebraska Regents exam) and received an academic scholarship at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

At Wesleyan University William was a member of the University Christian Ministry, and Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society. He was student senate vice-president, editor of the school newspaper, and on the Youth Advisory Committee for Sate Selective Service.

He attended the Summer Institute in Space Physics at Columbia University in 1969, was in Blue Key Men's Honorary, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges, senior class president, NWU Alumni Outstanding Senior Award and received a Bachelor of Science in physics and mathematics with highest distinction in 1970. He participated in the Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship, NSF Graduate Fellowship, and Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship. William's post graduate academics took place at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he was a member of the Wesley Foundation (a campus ministry.) He was on the CU Trivia Bowl team which won the championship in 1975 and second place in 1976.

As a teacher at Wesleyan he was Physics Department chair, President of the Faculty and member of Board of Governors, president and section representative for the Nebraska Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, Bill has had articles published in *The American Journal of Physics* and *The Physics Teacher*, as well as others. William received the Nebraska Wesleyan University Great Teaching Professor Award, the NWU Friend of the Humanities Award, and an Exemplary Teaching Award from United Methodist Church.

He has participated in many civic organizations over the years: Bread for the World since 1977, Wallingford Food Volunteers, and Union of Concerned Scientists for 10 years. He is currently an elder, in the choir, and on the mission committee at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. He has taken mission trips to New Orleans, Panama, and just this year, Ethiopia. He is currently secretary of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Inc., Cornerstone campus ministry board at UNL, president of the Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, and member of the board of the Great Plains Trail Foundation.

William's family includes his mother, Flora Belle Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, sisters Nancy of Lincoln, and Susan of Overland Park, KS and their families.

Bill 's hobbies are bicycle touring on local and national trails, movies, Lewis and Clark, judging school science fairs, and visiting high school physics teachers.