

Vern Charles Dahlquist

October 5, 1929 – November 15, 2006



MARQUETTE - Vern Charles Dahlquist was born October 5, 1929, in Iron Mountain, the son of Henry and Stella Dahlquist. He was a 1948 graduate of the Iron Mountain High School, a 1957 graduate of Northern Michigan College, and a 1965 graduate of the University of Michigan.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, Vern enlisted in the US Air Force and served in the Air Training Command and Special Operations. Following active duty, he continued service in the reserves, and became the Northland Group Commander of the Civil Air Patrol, USAF auxiliary, with the grade of Lieutenant Colonel. Vern was also a member of Richard Jopling Post #44 of the American Legion. It was during his regular Air Force service that he married his high school sweetheart Marilyn Cain. Their fifty-three year marriage produced three children [Betty, Susan, and Mark], and five grandchildren.

Vern's first job was as an administrative consultant with Family Service Society of Marquette followed by positions as a child welfare worker with Michigan's Children's Institute and the Michigan Department of Social Services. After receiving his MSW at the University of Michigan, he was the executive director of the Michigan Children's Aid Society of the U.P. which became Child and Family Service of the Upper Peninsula. He was director of development and director of special services with Child and Family Services of Michigan before becoming executive director of the agency. After retiring from CFSM in 1989, he joined the Marquette United Way as the executive director and retired from that position in 1993. In 2004, Child and Family Service of the U.P. presented him with the Anne Frazier-Ellwood Mattson Outstanding Services Award.

Active in community affairs, he served four terms as a commissioner on the Marquette County Commission on Aging. He was Vice Chairman of the Marquette City Housing Commission during which time the high rise for seniors and Superior Village were built. He served as president of the Marquette Community Foundation and of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and was a charter board member of the Marquette County Volunteer Center. He served as chairman of the UP Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, as a board member of the Alger Marquette Community Action Board, and Michigan Federation of Private Agencies. Directorships on agency boards included the Michigan Food Bank Council, Red Cross, Marquette Volunteer Agency, Children's Museum, United Way of Marquette County and the Central Upper Peninsula Food Bank. He served thirteen years on the Marquette Area Board of Education including two terms as president. A member of the First Presbyterian Church, he was an ordained elder.

Vern was a long-time member of the Marquette Kiwanis Club. He was honored with the Claude Bosworth Award for Community Service and, in 2005, was named a George F. Hixon Fellow by Kiwanis International.

A big U of M fan, he served two terms as an Alumni Association director. He was president of the School of Social Work Board of Governors and served as the national chair of the School of Social Work's capital funding campaign.

Vern and his family were avid sailors and skiers. They sailed their boat "Cloudbank" on Lake Superior in fair weather and foul for twenty-three years. After retirement, he and his wife spent their time traveling from coast to coast visiting children and grandchildren and spending summers with family at their cottage on Sawyer Lake.
