

## Former Lake City Resident Makes Hospice Room Possible

LAKE CITY, MN – Thanks to a Lake City native’s love for his hometown and passion about hospice services, a new hospice room has been created at Lake City Medical Center – Mayo Health System. The “Peaceful Moments Hospice Room” is located in the nursing home and designated to provide families with a comfortable setting while they spend time with their loved ones at the end of life.

The man who made the creation of the hospice room possible through a generous donation was born in Lake City in 1915, attended Lincoln High School and grew up on Franklin Street. John Alexander, according to his granddaughter, Susan Alexander, loved Lake City and often talked about his years growing up.

“During his school years, he delivered the Pioneer Press and was a lifeguard down at the Lake Pepin beach,” says Alexander. “When he was 7, he watched, from the banks of the beach, Ralph Samuelson’s amazing mastery of his invention of water-skiing.”

Alexander chose a career in radio and television, which eventually pulled him away from Lake City. His career took him to Great Falls, Montana, North Platte, Nebraska and finally Tampa, Florida. He owned several radio stations and retired in 1981 as vice president of television and radio at WFLA, an NBC affiliate in Tampa.

“Throughout his career, though, he made regular trips to Lake City to visit his mother,” says Alexander. “Faithfully, upon crossing the bridge at La Crosse after a long drive from Florida, he would always remark ‘aren’t those bluffs magnificent?’ No matter where his career took him, Lake City was always his home.”

During his retirement, Alexander and his wife June spent six months of the year in Lake City. Alexander could frequently be seen walking in the evening with several of his Lake City friends. He was also a proud member of the Old Goats Club, and he and June attended the Episcopal Church.

Alexander’s passion for hospice services grew each time his family members found themselves dealing with the end of life. The Alexanders first used hospice services in Lake City in the early 1990s when June was battling cancer. She passed away in September of 1993. Hospice care was also administered to Alexander and June’s son, Jeff, and Alexander’s second wife, Jerry, who died in February of 1999. Alexander himself died in May of 2003, shortly after being diagnosed with kidney cancer.

“Hospice was a vital part of our family’s care,” Alexander explains. “Grandpa would frequently remark how compassionate, professional and truly special hospice people are. He was so very thankful to know them and

receive their services. They are a very treasured source of comfort and care in our most difficult times, and for that, our entire family is truly grateful.

“Grandpa designated a donation for hospice because he felt that strongly about it. He wanted to provide more fully for the needs and the alleviation of suffering of hospice patients,” Alexander adds. “He would be very pleased to know his contribution made the beautiful ‘Peaceful Moments Hospice Room’ possible.”



