



# THE PULSE

OF THE OSTEOPATHIC FOUNDATION OF WEST MICHIGAN

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## REMEMBERING BRYAN HUGHES

The Osteopathic Foundation lost a friend, a colleague, a superb board member and a great human being on September 13, 2011. Bryan Hughes, an Osteopathic Foundation of West Michigan board member, since its creation, died suddenly just a month after turning 59.

Bryan lived large and was described by those who loved him as a modern-day Renaissance man. He knew a lot about a lot of things, and he excelled at math. He loved the out-of-doors, fishing and hunting. And he possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and love of starting businesses from the ground up – not necessarily what would have been expected from a boy born in the tiny city of Mount Gilead, Ohio in 1952.

Bryan was one of four children and moved with his family at a young age to West Bend, Wisconsin where his father was a salesman for West Bend Aluminum. He excelled in both sports and academics. After serving in the US Marines, he earned a scholarship to attend Illinois Wesleyan University and met his future bride, Lucy Bergmann, at freshman orientation.

He worked for a law firm in Rockford, Illinois for a year, then enrolled at Drake University Law School. After graduation, he became involved in commercial real estate in Traverse City and eventually returned to Iowa where he worked as a financial planner for Farm Bureau Insurance.

Bryan and Lucy had two sons, Justin and Andrew, and a daughter, Kristen. And by all accounts, Bryan loved being a dad. He



Hughes family moved to Muskegon in 1992, and Bryan became a partner in the Chaddock Winter and Alberts Insurance Agency. He later became a partner in Jackal Fabrication and worked for Gallagher Insurance in Grand Rapids. For the last several years, he served as executive director and CEO for the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum in Muskegon and is credited for turning the organization into both a profitable and prominent attraction.

Bryan served on the board of directors of Muskegon General Hospital and was instrumental in negotiating the creation of this foundation when Mercy Hospital merged with Muskegon General Hospital. He took his responsibilities as a board member seriously and served as its secretary.

coached soccer and served as a Boy Scout leader, and took his family on vacations to Michigan and Colorado.

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He was trusted, respected and admired.

“The entire foundation board misses him,” said Frank Marczak, chairman of the Osteopathic Foundation. It’s a sentiment echoed by fellow board member Mark Fazakerley.

“I miss my good friend,” said Mark. “Bryan and I worked closed together developing the Naval Memorial and Museum, and he played a crucial role recently in negotiating a new loan for the Health Pavilion in Muskegon, which is owned by the Foundation.”

Bryan leaves a legacy of leadership, service and inspiration—big shoes to fill. It was a privilege to know him and to work with him.

For a look back, you can read an article written by Bryan in the May 2010 *Pulse*, which can be found on this Foundation’s website [www.osteopathicfoundation.org](http://www.osteopathicfoundation.org).



“There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of even one small candle” ~ Robert Alden