

**James S. Berry, M.D.**  
**1999 Friend of Education**

Dr. James S. Berry (deceased) was the "founding lather" of the Beaver Dam Scholarship Foundation. Coming from a family of educators, it was Berry's thought that anyone who wanted more education should have the financial means to do so. A group of twenty community members, called together by Berry, set up the first Board of Directors. To create a strong base for the foundation, Berry, along with Dr. Joseph Militello and Dr. Ayaz Samadani approached the medical community in Beaver Dam to begin a fund of sizable pledges. This action instigated more support from the larger community. Berry served as the first President of the Foundation for many years. Now, after seven years of fund raising, the Foundation has an endowment in excess of 1.4 million dollars. In 1998 twenty-seven students received a total of \$87,500. In 1999, the Foundation will award about \$100,000. This growth demonstrates the tradition of commitment to the Foundation, first exemplified by Dr. Berry. Following his retirement, Berry gave full-time attention to the Foundation. Nominator Elaine Altemus Possin notes that "Dr. Berry would be the first to cite the support he's had from others. It remains; the Foundation began with one person, Dr. Berry, and that is why he has been, is, and always will be a 'Friend of Education.' "