

James J. Healy
2002 Outstanding Alumnus

Outstanding Alumni James J. Healy has been a part of history, especially the economic and intertwining political events, during the latter two-thirds of the twentieth century. During that time, he has worked side by side with many national figures. In her nomination statement, Lois Sutton summarized Healy's many contributions to society. "Mr. Healy is looked upon as a leader in labor relations. His elevation to full professor at Harvard and director of the Trade Union Program in the School of Business, his Presidential appointments, and his prestigious role as mediator in national airline, maritime, railroad, and postal worker disputes are indicative of his leadership ability. His tireless service on numerous government boards and commissions is another way that he has contributed time, talent, knowledge, and effort to the betterment of society."

As a distinguished authority in the field of labor relations and mediation/arbitration, Healy has received presidential appointments to commissions, serving with senators, congressmen, and other high-ranking government officials. President Kennedy appointed him to a key position in the settlement of the railroad labor dispute in 1963 and President Carter appointed Healy to resolve the national postal service dispute in 1978. Both of these disputes implied major effects on the U.S. economy.

After earning his BA and MA degrees at the University of Wisconsin, Healy joined the Harvard faculty in 1938. He was named Professor of Industrial Relations in 1958 and was awarded an honorary master's degree from Harvard in 1959. He taught at George Washington University, Radcliffe College, and Harvard, where he became the John G. McLean Professor of Business Administration in 1976. As a gifted teacher and lecturer, he co-authored the highly regarded textbook, *Collective Bargaining*, used for years in universities and business schools. He also co-authored and edited several other books relevant to labor relations.

In 1988, James Healy received the Distinguished Service Award from Harvard University. In 1982, he received the Cushing-Gavin Award from the Boston Labor Guild, and in 1993, he received the Distinguished Labor Arbitrator Award from the American Arbitration Association.

Because Healy has a national reputation in his field for expertise, fairness, patience and good judgment, he is still actively involved in mediation/arbitration. As a highly sought mediator at the age of eighty-five, he continues to travel throughout the nation from his current home base in Phoenix, Arizona.

As part of her testimony, nominator Sutton, daughter of Mildred Sutton who was a BDHS classmate of Healy's and is currently a Beaver Dam resident, emphasized Healy's impact as a role model "Mr. Healy's name on the Wall of Fame will convey to Beaver Dam students that one can play a role in history and make important contributions to society throughout the social sciences. In my opinion, Mr. Healy, with his specialty in labor relations, will be an outstanding inspiration to students."