

BEAVER DAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
WALL OF FAME



Margaret Lamoreaux Macfarlane

2022 Outstanding Alumna



Margaret Lamoreaux Macfarlane is a 1934 graduate of Beaver Dam High School where she graduated at the age of 16 with dreams of becoming a lawyer. She moved to Washington DC immediately following graduation to work in the clerical department at the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. She enrolled in night classes at business school to become more proficient in her position. In 1935, she started at the National Archives as an assistant to the Head Archivist. During her time there, Margaret had the opportunity to see President Roosevelt on his many visits to the National Archives. She studied to become an accredited professional archivist and was promoted to the position of Junior Archivist at age 18. In this position, she co-authored a book *Handbook of Federal War Agencies and Their Records 1917-1921*. While working at the National Archives, she took pre-law courses at George Washington University. From there, she was accepted to National University Law School in Washington DC where she graduated with a law degree in 1941, while working full-time. She was later admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the United States Supreme Court. While working at the Archives, Margaret practiced law with another woman graduate. With a desire to serve the war effort, she transferred to the Board of Economic Warfare in the quasi-legal position of Senior Administrative Assistant.

When the war ended, she began her career as an attorney with the United States Government Accountability Office. She was one of the first female attorneys with the Index Digest Section Corporate Attorney's Office, where she was responsible for preparing her superiors on a variety of topics prior to them testifying before Congress. During her career, she served as Chief of the Legislative Digest Section, Chief of the Index Digest Section, and Chief of Legal Reference. As Chief of Legal Reference, she would often brief members of Congress on opinions and audits. Margaret retired as Chief of Legal Reference in 1971. She received many awards and accolades and was the first woman to receive the highest award, the Comptroller General's Distinguished Service Award.

After her retirement, Margaret returned to Beaver Dam where she served the community and state. She served as legal research counsel for the Wisconsin Hospital Association, authoring a two-volume manual on Wisconsin Hospital Law. Margaret served on the Beaver Dam City Board of Appeals, was secretary of the Dodge County Historical Society, and secretary of Chapter 1091 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. Margaret also was a member of the AAUW Beaver Dam Branch, Dodge County Bar Association, Wisconsin Hospital Society, Dodge County Friends of Animals, and Partners of the Beaver Dam Hospital. In 1990, she was part of a video honoring women who blazed a trail for women in the Government Accountability Office. Margaret is a true inspiration to all, especially women and girls.