



CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. - A 501(C)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

Dr. James Angus McCallum (1906 - 1976)

Maryland Physician honored for his work in championing facilities for the chronically ill

Dr. James Angus McCallum's work in developing medical facilities for the chronically ill has been recognized by the Senate of the State of Maryland. Born in Brookhaven, Lincoln County, Mississippi on 4 February 1906, Dr. McCallum received his medical degree from Emory University and received a Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins. In 1946, Dr. McCallum was recruited to serve as the first Public Health Officer in Queen Anne's County, Md. The unique thing Dr. McCallum did was to recognize that many of the chronically ill people did not require mere supportive warehousing as they waited to die. They needed physical therapy (a very new idea at that time- few knew what it was), vocational therapy and plans to reenter society as contributing individuals. Dr. McCallum found educational resources for himself (Rusk



Institute NYC) so that he could utilize that expertise for his patients. He hired the first Physiatrist (doctor of physical medicine and rehabilitation) to ever practice in MD. Then he had to persuade key people in the MD Legislature to fund this very unique program. With the program established, he used his understanding of the special needs of these patients to assist in the design, building and equipping of these hospitals.

The Senate Resolution shown below elaborates on his achievements in developing these facilities.

Upon retirement, Dr. McCallum settled in Chester, MD and passed on 11 May 1976. [findagrave.com memorial 69145797](http://findagrave.com/memorial/69145797)

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 111

BY SENATOR ABRAMS

By the SENATE, March 10, 1972.

Read and adopted.

By order, ODEN BOWIE, Secretary.

Senate Resolution expressing the deep appreciation of the Senate of Maryland to Dr. James McCallum for the contributions of his nearly 40 years of State service.

1 The Senate of Maryland sends its hearty thanks to Dr. James
2 McCallum for the outstanding contributions he made to the State
3 of Maryland during his career extending nearly 40 years. It was
4 Dr. McCallum who conceived, built and operated the Montebello,
5 Deer's Head and Western Maryland State Hospitals.

6 Dr. James Angus McCallum was born in Lincoln County, Missis-
7 sippi. He is married and the father of two children, James Angus, Jr.,
8 working in Hospital Administration, and Margaret Ann, a graduate
9 of Duke University School of Nursing. He has three grandchildren,
10 two girls and one boy.

11 Dr. McCallum graduated from the University of Mississippi in
12 1927 and from the School of Medicine, Emory University, in 1929.
13 He came to Maryland in 1931 as Deputy State Health Officer of
14 Queen Anne's County. In 1936, he was awarded a scholarship to
15 study for the degree of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University
16 School of Hygiene and received his degree in September of 1937.
17 He returned to Centreville until 1944, when at the request of the
18 Director of Health, he was transferred to Hagerstown to head a
19 considerably larger public health program as Health Officer.

20 The Maryland State Legislature, in March of 1943, approved a
22 bill establishing two chronic disease hospitals in Maryland—one for
23 the peninsular counties and another for the western area of the
24 state. The advent of World War II prevented the implementation of
25 the authorized legislation until after the cessation of hostilities in
26 1945. In the meantime, the 1945 session of the General Assembly
27 authorized a third hospital to serve Baltimore City and the central
28 counties.

29 In June of 1946, Dr. McCallum was appointed to attempt the
30 organization and early operation of Maryland's first chronic disease
31 hospital, which was located temporarily in the Army hospital build-
32 ings at Fort Ritchie, Maryland. Upon acceptance of this task, he
33 was granted four months leave of absence to study hospital admin-
34 istration, hospital staffing practices, needed equipment, and care
35 programs. Budgets were prepared, equipment was purchased, and
36 a small staff was recruited for the gradual opening of this first
37 hospital of 224 beds at Ritchie, under his direction. The first patients
38 were admitted on September 9, 1947.

39 Since this came at the end of World War II, Dr. McCallum was
40 confronted with shortages in every line of supply and equipment.
41 The task of converting these abandoned, wooden, barracks-type
42 buildings into a suitable facility for the care of chronically ill
43 patients was tremendous. The feeling of "hospital family" engendered
44 in this atmosphere of working closely together in an isolated area
45 under adverse circumstances persisted throughout many years, even
46 into the modern hospitals of the present chronic hospital system.

47 During the time that Dr. McCallum was Superintendent of Ritchie
48 Hospital, Deer's Head State Hospital was under construction. Upon
49 its completion in 1950, he was appointed Superintendent and moved
50 to that location.

51 While equipping and staffing and getting into full operation the
52 second institution, a site for the third was purchased in Baltimore,
53 and he was requested to move to Baltimore to work with the arch-
54 itects and engineers in developing plans and specifications for Mary-
55 land's third chronic disease hospital, maintaining at the same time
56 general supervision and liaison with the other two existing hospitals.
57 Upon completion of the second hospital, Montebello, in Baltimore, the
58 original Ritchie hospital was closed, and many of its patients and
59 staff and most of its equipment were moved to Baltimore. Simul-
60 taneously, plans were being developed for the new Western Maryland
61 State Hospital at Hagerstown.

62 The original concept of the hospitals was to admit chronically ill,
63 medically indigent patients who were not at that time getting the
64 needed medical care in their home communities, the alms houses,
65 and other institutions. As time went on, Dr. McCallum realized that
66 rehabilitation should be emphasized in the care of the chronic pa-
67 tients in order to meet the patients' needs and to prevent the patient
68 load from being static. It was his feeling that more patients should
69 be selected for admission with some potential for rehabilitation. Dr.
70 McCallum was able to persuade the State Board of Health of the
71 need for rehabilitation and in October of 1952, he was sent on a
72 trip to visit institutions and agencies in other states where chronic
73 illnesses are cared for and where rehabilitation is being done. This
74 was carried out under the auspices of a Rockefeller Foundation
75 grant. In 1955, the first Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabili-
76 tation was recruited. In 1956, Dr. McCallum was officially made
77 Medical Superintendent of the three hospitals, now providing 1,064
78 beds.

79 In 1961, Dr. McCallum was the recipient of the Physicians Award
80 from the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

81 In 1967, Dr. McCallum was appointed Chief of the new Division
82 of Hospital Operations, a post he held until his retirement on Sep-
83 tember 30, 1971, after nearly 40 years of service to the State.

84 Dr. McCallum was a man who had the vision to see the need for
85 a chronic disease and rehabilitation hospital system, the persuasive
86 skills to interest key persons to assist in making this a reality, the
87 knowledge of architecture and engineering to advise in the design
88 and construction of these facilities, and the administrative and pro-
89 fessional skills to put them into operation and provide high quality
90 health care. Above all, Dr. McCallum was a man and a physician
91 who was deeply concerned about the suffering of chronically ill and

92 aging persons, a concern which he never lost through all his years
93 of service.

94 The Senate honors itself in sending its appreciation to Dr.
95 McCallum for this long and unusual career; now, therefore, be it

96 *Resolved by the Senate of Maryland, That the thanks and appreci-*
97 *ation of the Senate and of the entire State of Maryland are sent*
98 *to Dr. James McCallum for his long and illustrious career and public*
99 *service in Maryland; and be it further*

100 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to send*
101 *copies of this Resolution to Dr. James McCallum, to Dr. Neil*
102 *Solomon, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hy-*
103 *giene, and to Dr. Edyth H. Schoenrich, Director, Administration*
104 *for Services to the Chronically Ill and Aging.*

Source: Ms Ann McCallum Brigstocke (daughter of Dr. James McCallum)