



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita
mourns the loss of pioneer physician**

WICHITA, KS– The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W), mourns the loss of **George “Ned” Burket**, MD, who died today, Friday, March 28, at the age of 95. For many years, Dr. Burket and his wife, Sue, were some of the strongest supporters of and contributors to KUSM-W. While a private family physician in Kingman for several years, Dr. Burket became frustrated in his efforts to recruit well-trained physicians to join his practice, and in the early 1960s became involved in the national effort to establish family medicine as a specialty as well as define its post-graduate training.

Burket was instrumental in helping to bring AMA recognition for Family Medicine as a specialty; assisted in establishing the American Board of Family Medicine and even served as chair; as well as served as president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. In 1975, he was elected to the highly prestigious Institutes of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. The distinguished George E. "Ned" Burket, MD, Senior Student Award in Family Medicine is awarded annually by the department of Family and Community Medicine.

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The Burkets were benefactors of KUSM-W students and programs. Following his retirement from private practice he became a member of the Family Medicine faculty on the Kansas City campus. During his last year in the Larksfield Health Care Center, he welcomed the frequent visits from KUSM-W medical students who were doing nursing home rounds as part of their Geriatrics/Ambulatory Medicine clerkship.

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita is nationally recognized as a pioneer in community-oriented medical education. Since the first class graduated in 1975, 1,504 physicians have earned medical degrees. About half of these eventually established practices in the state, fulfilling KUSM-W's promise of "Educating Doctors For Kansas."