



Dr. Robert K. Poling

Dr. Robert "Doc" Poling, DDS graduated from Fort Hill High School in 1942 as an active member of the track team, as well as the football team under Coach John Long. After graduating from Fort Hill, he entered World War II as a member of the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program and received his Air Force Wings in December, 1944. Toward the end of WWII, "Doc" enrolled at Potomac State College and in 1948 was accepted into the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery at University of Maryland. "Doc" graduated with his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1952. Returning to his roots, "Doc" established his dental practice in Cumberland, MD. While practicing, he was Chairman of the Continuing Education Committee and later President of the Allegany-Garrett County Dental Society, and member of Memorial Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital medical staffs.

In 1961, "Doc" initiated a custom mouth protector program for Coach Lattimer's Fort Hill football team and continued as the team's dentist until his retirement in 1989. The mouth protectors prevented injury from fractured teeth, fractured jaws, and concussions, all while providing comfort from the custom fit. "Doc's" leadership in the Allegany-Garrett County Dental Society provided all Allegany and Garrett County high school football teams with custom mouth protectors. This program existed before mouth protectors became mandatory by Maryland's State Athletic Commission.

"Doc" was privileged to be a member of the Fort Hill High School Football Medical team organized and led by Dr. Overton Himmelwright, a brilliant leader in the field of sports medicine.

"Doc" passed away May 2014 leaving behind his wife, Barbara, two daughters, one son, two step sons and one step daughter, four grandchildren, and many step-grandchildren, after battling Parkinson's disease for several years. "Doc's" devotion to his craft of dentistry; love of high school football; and commitment to volunteerism will continue to live on for years to come.