



Dedication to Family, Health Care, Education — Hallmarks of Bill Smart’s Life

Bill Smart, who passed away in March at age 80, had a passion for empowering people. Mr. Smart got his first taste of aiding others as a 19-year-old Army medical corps staff sergeant in Belgium. Despite numerous academic and professional accomplishments over the years, that early experience was emblazoned in his mind and heart, making the pursuit of quality health care a priority throughout his rich life.

When he returned home, he launched a 40-year career with Abbott Laboratories near Chicago. Thanks to the GI bill, Mr. Smart earned a B.S. in chemistry and an M.B.A. while on leave from Abbott.

He was a champion of public education, saying, “I have a strong belief that if we’re going to achieve the concept that all men are created equal, the surest route to that goal is through public education.”

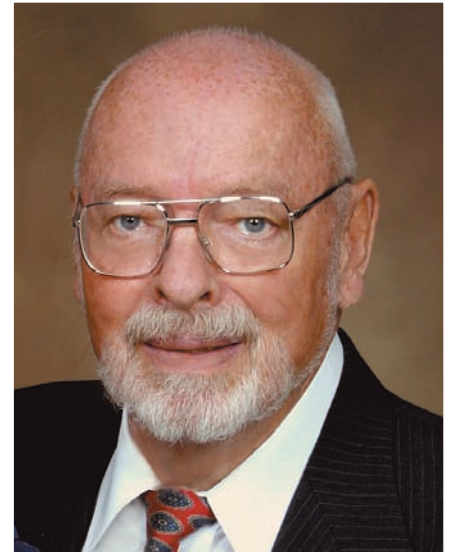
That passion motivated him to donate generously in his wife’s name to establish the Mary Ekdahl Smart Academy in Health Science Education on the Warrington campus. The gift supports five state-of-the-art human simulators.

Bill and Mary Smart had previously established an endowed chair and scholarship fund to benefit PJC’s health sciences programs.

In addition, the Smarts supported PJC’s Annual Fund, President’s Circle, Athletic Booster Club and Honors Program.

In his hometown of Waukegan, Ill., Mr. Smart was president of the board of directors for the community hospital and he served on the board of Gulf Breeze Hospital when he moved to Northwest Florida.

Although tireless in his professional and community involvement, Mr. Smart was clear on one thing — his most prized legacy was his family. Bill and Mary raised five children of their own as well as Mary’s niece and nephew after their parents died in a plane crash. He had nine grandchildren.



Bill Smart



The Smart family toured the cutting edge Mary Ekdahl Smart Center for Patient Simulation & Research in July



The Smarts with eight of their nine grandchildren



Bill and Mary Smart kept their seven children as their top priority