Dizney Gift

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The state of the art clinical nursing lab at WKU’s Health Sciences Complex bears a new name and honors the memory of a beloved nurse.

Amy Bingham has more in this week’s View from the Hill.

Donald Dizney says he owes his success in the health care field to a nurse named Helen Turner. She passed away in 1995 but her legacy will live on in WKU’s nursing program.

“It’s a great day for me because I wouldn’t be in the hospital business if it hadn’t been for Mrs. Turner.”

It was an emotional moment for Don Dizney when he first saw the likeness of his mentor, Helen Turner, on the wall outside the newly named Dizney Clinical Learning Center at WKU’s Health Sciences Complex.

“I think I speak for the whole family when I say we are very proud of Aunt Helen and we are so appreciative to Don and Irene Dizney for honoring her in this way.”

Dizney’s relationship with Turner dates back to 1963 when she hired him as an orderly while he was at the Bowling Green Warren County hospital for the birth of his first child.

“I went down and applied for the job and she hired me the next day before my son left.”

Dizney worked his way up to Founder and Chairman of the Board for United Medical Corporation which has a large network of hospitals.

“I’ve thought about Mrs. Turner a lot in those 51 years, tell stories when people asked where did you get your start and things like that.”

The dedication marked the first time the Dizney and his wife Irene had a chance to meet any of Turner’s relatives…nearly a dozen came from all over the country.

“It’s exciting to see that large a group coming from as far away as some of them came. It shows what she meant to her own family.”

She had no children of her own, but Turner thought of Dizney like a son and even said so in a 1986 video.

Dizney says this state of the art nursing lab would be right up Turner’s ally and she would be so proud that it’s called the Dizney Clinical Learning Center in memory of Helen Turner.

“I’ve realized from Mrs. Turner you can always probably do without an administrator or CEO but you can’t do without a good director of nurses. She was the best of the best, for sure.”

Helen Turner’s career included 25 years as director of nursing at the Owensboro-Daviess County hospital and 20 years as director of nursing at the Bowling Green-Warren County hospital. She helped bring hospice services to Bowling Green.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham

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