

# Charlotte Maguire: Medical pioneer blended love into work ethic

By **Jessica Inman**

Staff Writer

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**I**n the early 20th century, a strict grandmother might have instructed her granddaughter not to play marbles with the boys.

She may have cited the root of her concern: It was not lady-like.

Such thought was typical for Charlotte Maguire's grandmother, a puritanical transplant from Indiana to Orlando to help her widowed son raise his young daughter.



Naturally, she was distraught when Charlotte brought home an assortment of her own marbles. When Charlotte's father questioned their origin and doubted Charlotte had won them as she said she did, she challenged him to a game, which she won.

"She was breaking barriers before she was double digits in years old I think," said her step-grandson, Raymer Maguire, III, of Maguire Lassman, P.A.

On Dec. 6, Charlotte Maguire died of a brief illness. She was 96.

Though the marbles were taken from her and she was reprimanded, she spent the rest of her life overcoming challenges with that same strength and wit.

"She had to fight her way into medical school in this country in the '40s because they didn't usually allow women," said Mollie Hill, Director of Community Clinical Relations at Florida State University college of medicine and Maguire's previous neighbor.

Upon her acceptance into the University of Arkansas, the fight meant the resolve to withstand exclusion from class discussion, even resentment.

"She knew this is what she wanted, and she wasn't going to be deterred," Hill said.

And she wasn't. The same woman who, as a girl, made a dime for every bucket of nails she had collected, was able to donate millions of dollars to Florida State University's medical program, which resulted in a library and scholarships in her name.

This after a career that spanned a **deep reservoir of accolades**. She operated a pediatric practice out of Orlando until she moved to Tallahassee.

"Her philosophy was she saw everyone, everyone that came to her door, she would see," said Hill.

The alignment of that belief with Florida State University medical school's mission statement made for an organic partnership between the university and Maguire.

"[She] was one of our first donors to be sure the mission was a success," Hill said.

She was also involved with the creation of University of Florida's medical school.

"She had it all together," said Raymer Maguire. "She integrated love and work ethic. It isn't as common that people have those two values integrated."

Her mastery of such a combination never diminished. Upon her move to Westminster Oaks, a Tallahassee retirement community, in 1991, she employed her passion for education through the creation of the lifelong learning center there.

"She lived as she wanted everyone else to live," said Rosemary Rausch, the Westminster Oaks Lifelong Learning Center Coordinator. "Always wanting to learn and grow."

At Westminster, she flourished as she painted and cultivated an interest in genealogy.

"She evolved, as well. She was not complacent. She always wanted to reach out and try something else," Hill said.

Though Hill was not contemplating retirement, Maguire recommended Hill follow Maguire's regiment — the daily completion of a crossword puzzle and a walk.

"She never really slowed down," Hill said.

In addition to Raymer, Charlotte Maguire is survived by 16 other grandchildren.

*[jinman@OrlandoSentinel.com](mailto:jinman@OrlandoSentinel.com) or 407-420-5002*

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