Dr. George Vande Woude Introduction, delivered on May 17, 2007

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Dr. George Vande Woude Introduction  
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Dr. George Vande Woude has devoted his professional life as a scientist to finding ways to cure and prevent cancer. Hackley Hospital has provided significant resources for that same cause earning a fine reputation for its Cancer Center. That is why we thought it was a good time to bring Dr. Vande Woude together with you who support Hackley Hospital. You may be interested to know that Dr. Vande Woude has roots in West Michigan. His father was raised in Holland, and graduated from Hope College. George attended Hope one year and then transferred to Hofstra University, closer to his Long Island, New York, home. When he finished there, he attended Rutgers University, an experience he and I share. He was on one side of the Raritan River earning a Ph.D. in
Biochemistry while I was on the other where the History Department was then located.

Dr. Vande Woude was and is always a researcher and a Director of researchers. One of his special qualities is his ability to attract very bright, young scientists to work on the projects for which he has responsibility. His own cancer research and the research of those he lead and encouraged at the National Cancer Institute distinguished him and those who worked with him. He is recognized internationally as one of the world’s greats in the attack on the world’s most feared disease. I cannot take Dr. Vande Woude’s time by telling you all the awards and recognitions he has received; that information would make a book.

We in West Michigan were fortunate that he was persuaded to become the first Director of the Van Andel Institute after more than 27 years at the National Cancer
Institute. The rapid advance of that Institute from a dream to the reality it is today is to his credit, and demonstrates once again his unusual skills. When George is not saving the world from disease you may find him assisting or perhaps working for his wife, Dot, who raises cattle on a farm near Ada, as well as one in Virginia. Who knows, our dinners tonight may be in part a result of their labors. We know that someone’s somewhere is. I am pleased to present to you one of America’s great research scientists. Dr. George Vande Woude.