

BIOGRAPHY - ATWOOD

Memorial flag pole honors Dr. Atwood

LOCAL HISTORY

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YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

The Yakima Health District honored the career of the late Dr. Robert Atwood on Wednesday by dedicating a flag pole in his memory. Atwood was the county's public health officer from 1974 to 2001.

"He was a visionary," said Dennis Klukan, public health administrator. Atwood died in 2006 at the age of 69.

Atwood earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a master's in public health at the University of Hawaii. He once worked for the Indian Health Service attached to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The health district is assembling a time capsule to place in a memorial to Atwood that sits at the base of the flag pole.

Some of the objects from a capsule at its former headquarters in downtown Yakima will be in the new capsule, including an old syringe and empty vials of medicine used during a virulent outbreak of typhoid fever in the Yakima Valley in the 1900s. The health district was founded in 1911 specifically to combat typhoid fever.

Last year, the district moved from its longtime headquarters on North First Avenue and West A Street next to the county jail to the Ahtanum Ridge Business Park.

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