

Idaho Press Tribune, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 – Staff report

Birkeland honored for Nampa career

The new maternity center at the Saint Alphonsus – Nampa Health Plaza will be named in honor of Dr. Fred Birkeland, who delivered more than 5,000 babies during his 27-year career in Nampa. He died in 2007 at age 69 due to cancer.

“I can’t think of a better way to honor his legacy than to name this new maternity center after a man that people so dearly loved, depended on and trusted,” Karl Keeler, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center – Nampa CEO, said.

Birkeland loved his job, said Gail Birkeland, his wife of 47 years.

“His family and his patients were foremost in his life, and it was just an incredible life,” she said. “He was enthusiastic about everything, he was passionate and caring and dedicated to his practice and his patients, dedicated to the hospital.”

One of his favorite aspects of his job, Gail said, was taking care of people over the long term. “He was delivering babies of babies he had delivered, so he was second generation,” she said. “And he became very close to some families.”

Families would often stop Fred in the grocery store or at the movies to introduce a child he had delivered. “He loved being part of the new generation,” Gail said. She believes Fred would have been humbled to know the center will be named after him.