

**From:** [News Services](#)  
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**Subject:** Ferris Honors Alumnus With Humanitarian Award  
**Date:** 11/05/2008 02:09 PM  
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Included below are two recent press releases regarding Dr. Ronald P. Mahoney (P '59) of Houston, Texas, formerly of Standish, who is being honored by Ferris State University and The Ferris Foundation with Ferris' first-ever humanitarian award at the 10th annual Ferris Foundation for Excellence benefit at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on Friday, Nov. 7. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release  
Nov. 5, 2008

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### **Alumnus Back on the Gridiron as Honorary Captain**

BIG RAPIDS – It was 50 years ago that Dr. Ronald P. Mahoney (P '59) of Houston, Texas, formerly of Standish, Mich., was captain and quarterback of the Bulldog football team. He will have the chance to re-live his days on the gridiron as he stands on the sidelines as honorary captain of the Bulldog football team at the last home game at noon this Saturday, Nov. 8, against Saginaw Valley State University.

Mahoney will be back in Michigan this week not only to stand as honorary captain, but for another very special reason – he is receiving Ferris' first-ever humanitarian award at the 10th annual Ferris Foundation for Excellence benefit at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids on Friday, Nov. 7. Mahoney is being honored for his outstanding contributions of service during the war in Vietnam as an artillery battalion surgeon and village doctor, as well as his current outreach activities in the rural cardiac clinics he established to serve low-income patients in the outlying communities of Houston.

He graduated from Ferris in 1959 with a degree in Pharmacy, and he received the Bulldog of the Year Award his senior year, the most coveted award for Ferris student-athletes. He continued on to Stritch Loyola School of Medicine in Chicago, obtaining his medical degree in 1963. An internship followed at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He then headed to Vietnam and spent two years with the First Infantry Division, with one of those years as a battalion surgeon. He received a Bronze Star and Vietnamese Medal of Honor.

Mahoney is currently the director of cardiology at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital in Sugar Land, Texas, after founding the heart program at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston.

A former gridiron standout, Mahoney's return to Big Rapids is part of Ferris State University celebrating its 100th season of Bulldog football.

## **Dr. Ronald P. Mahoney Receives Humanitarian Award**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University and The Ferris Foundation will recognize alumnus Dr. Ronald P. Mahoney (Pharmacy – '59) of Houston, Texas, with the Ferris State University Humanitarian Award at the 10th annual Foundation for Excellence Benefit in Grand Rapids on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008.

Mahoney will be honored by his alma mater for his outstanding contributions of service during the war in Vietnam as an artillery battalion surgeon and village doctor, as well as his current outreach activities in the rural cardiac clinics he established to serve low-income patients in the outlying communities of Houston.

Having grown up in the small Michigan town of Standish, Mahoney didn't know what path his life would take. He remembers working at a very young age to help his parents. From selling cans of Cloverine brand salve to peddling newspapers, he understood early that he needed an education to make something of himself. He graduated from Ferris in 1959 with a degree in pharmacy and continued on to Stritch Loyola School of Medicine in Chicago, obtaining his medical degree in 1963. An internship followed at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He then headed to Vietnam and spent two years with the First Infantry division, with one of those years as a battalion surgeon. He received a Bronze Star and Vietnamese Medal of Honor.

Mahoney is currently the director of cardiology at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital in Sugar Land, Texas, after founding the heart program at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston. In addition, he has spent many years and dollars of his own establishing outreach clinics in rural communities, such as Eagle Lake, Texas, for patients who aren't able to travel to the city for specialized heart care. He'll treat 15 to 20 patients when he's there each week, who often can't pay for their medical care. They've given him baked goods and fresh-grown vegetables to show their appreciation for what he does for them and for their community. It's the kind of small-town medicine he lives for.

The Ferris Foundation was established in 1991 to respond to the University's need for a long-range fundraising program. The Ferris Foundation has grown over the last 17 years to include managing more than \$35 million.

“Since the University was founded by Woodbridge N. Ferris nearly 125 years ago, its mission has been about providing opportunities for students,” Foundation Chair-Elect Dick Shaw said. “Through the generosity and the work of the Foundation, the dream of an education becomes a reality for current and future Ferris State University students.”

Individual tickets for the event may be purchased, or you may choose from a range of sponsorship levels. Funds raised support the Foundation for Excellence Scholarship Endowment for Ferris students and the Exceptional Merit Grant Award program for faculty and staff initiatives that advance the University's mission.

To buy tickets, reserve a sponsorship or receive additional information, please call Kim Erickson at (231) 591-2365.



Ron Mahoney.11.5.08.jpg

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