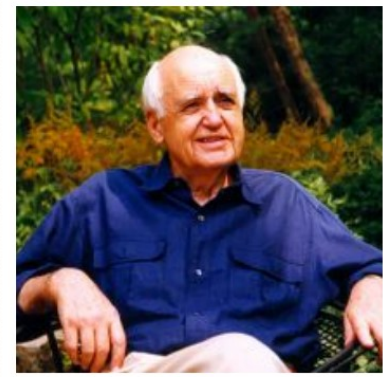


National Immunization Awareness Month

MEET ONE OF MONTANA'S OWN, DR. MAURICE HILLEMAN

National Immunization Awareness Month is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of routine vaccination for people of all ages.



EARLY LIFE

Dr. Hilleman was born in 1919 in Miles City, MT, where he was raised on his uncle and aunt's farm following the passing of his mother. He graduated high school in 1937 & was awarded a scholarship to MT State University where he graduated with honors in 1941 with a degree in chemistry and microbiology. He furthered his education at the Univ. of Chicago.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Scientist Maurice R. Hilleman was involved in the creation or development of dozens of vaccines. He was the first person to combine different viral vaccines into one shot with the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, and the first person to develop a vaccine to prevent a type of cancer in people (hepatitis B vaccine). Dr. Hilleman's work has been credited with saving 8 million lives every year.

CAREER

Upon completion of his PhD in '44, Dr. Hilleman started working at a company called E.R. Squibb & Sons where he developed his first vaccine, protection against JE virus, used to protect U.S. troops during World War II. In '48, Dr. Hilleman became the chief of respiratory disease at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. In '57 he began working for Merck & Co. to oversee their vaccine research and development.

LEGACY

Dr. Hilleman retired from Merck in 1984 due to company rules on mandatory retirement age. In the following years, he continued to contribute to science as a consultant and a mentor until his passing in 2005. He served as an advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO), and President Ronald Regan awarded him the National Medal of Science, the highest science award given in the U.S., in 1988.