

Republican. PLUS

POWERING **MASS** LIVE



HCC President Christina Royal, second from left, joins, from left: Tom Stewart, HCC director of athletics; Bill Bagshaw, HCC Foundation board member and golf committee chairman; and Dave Monaco on the fourth tee at the Springfield County Club during the college foundation's 30th Golf Classic.

HOLYOKE

HCC honors 'Doc' Baker

Former Holyoke Community College president David Bartley and the late Francis "Doc" Baker started caddy together at Holyoke Country Club when they were 8 years old and started playing golf together when they were 9.

"It was my pleasure to have him as a friend for over 75 years," Bartley said on Sept. 11 during the college foundation's 30th Golf Classic, an annual fundraising benefit that this year was dedicated in memory of Baker, a lifelong Holyoke resident and longtime friend to the college who died on July 23 at 84.

Baker, a podiatrist who, like Bartley,



FRANCIS "DOC" BAKER

community College Foundation board from 1987 until his death and was a founding member of the foundation's golf committee, on which he served as a committee chair.

"When it came to Holyoke Community College, Francis Baker was

was born and raised in Holyoke, served two terms as a college trustee from 1984 to 1992, while Bartley was the college president, including three years as chairman. He was also a member of the Holyoke Community College Foundation board from 1987 until his death and was a founding member of the foundation's golf committee, on which he served as a committee chair.

always there," Bartley said.

More than 90 golfers played in the scramble-style tournament at the Springfield Country Club in West Springfield. All the net proceeds from this year's event - more than \$25,000 - will go toward classroom equipment and student services at the new HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St. in downtown Holyoke. As well, a room at the new culinary arts and hospitality education center will be named for Baker.

"Francis Baker really started this golf tournament 30 years ago," Bartley said during a tribute to Baker. "We

SEE BAKER, PAGE P7

Baker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE P1

raised a lot of money for this college.”

Since the first Golf Classic was played in 1988, the tournament has raised more than \$500,000 for student scholarships and educational technology.

Bartley noted that the foun-

dation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of the college, now has an endowment of more than \$14 million, making it one of the largest and most successful community college foundations in the country.

“This golf tournament is a good reminder that the college really needs the support of the community,” current president Christina Royal told golfers and guests during the

dinner portion of the program, “and so being here and participating, you’re really helping to contribute to the college and to the students, so thank you.”

During his tribute, Bartley added that his friend “Fran” was also a “beloved Irishman,” and worked hard on behalf of the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade, serving as a parade president and a grand

marshal.

“There are very few people who loved or worked harder for the city of Holyoke than Dr. Francis Baker,” he said. “Fran is in a better place today, but he certainly had a major influence on Holyoke Community College and on the city of Holyoke. Thank you, Fran and God bless you. Until we meet again.”