Naming Opportunity  
Engineering Building West  
University of Missouri-Columbia  

The University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) requests authorization to name the Engineering Building West at 411 S 6th St the “F. Robert and Patricia Naka Hall” in honor and recognition of principal donor’s father, F. Robert Naka. Dr. Naka’s family honored his pledge to provide $1.5 million towards the renovation of Lafferre Hall.

F. Robert Naka, BS EE ’45, arrived at MU in 1943 after spending two years in a Japanese Internment Camp in Southern California. After graduating from MU, Dr. Naka went on to earn his master’s degree from the University of Minnesota and doctorate from Harvard University.

Dr. Naka has contributed much to the prestige of the MU College of Engineering. In addition to his philanthropy, Dr. Naka’s research with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the Cold War resulted in the ability for United States’ aircraft to avoid radar detection. This work has given him the title of “father of stealth technology.” Dr. Naka’s impressive contributions also include serving as the 20th Chief Scientist of the United States Air Force and Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He also was a member of the NASA Space Program Advisory Council, the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the National Academy of Engineering, and was a fellow of the Explorers Club. Dr. Naka was a four-time recipient of the Air Force Exceptional Service medal.

Dr. Naka had a deep love for MU. He has been recognized as a founding member of the Engineering Dean’s Advisory Committee and served on the Engineering Campaign Leadership Team. In 1971, Dr. Naka was honored with the Distinguished Service in Engineering Award at the Missouri Honor Awards. In 1984, Dr. Naka was the recipient of a Faculty Alumni Award, the highest honor presented by the Mizzou Alumni Association. Dr. Naka was a life member of MAA and was also recognized as a member of the Shamrock Society, Legacy Society, and Jefferson Club. In 2008, MU presented Dr. Naka with an honorary Doctorate of Science as a tribute to his work in the field of engineering.

Dr. Naka always considered MU in his philanthropy. In the 1990s, when the government paid him retribution funds for his time spent in an internment camp, he donated half of his payment to the university to establish the F. Robert Naka Scholarship. During his lifetime, Dr. Naka also made gifts to establish the Robert and Patricia N. Naka Undergraduate Scholarship in Electrical Engineering.

In September 2013, Dr. Naka committed an estate gift of $1.5 million to MU in order to support renovations to Lafferre Hall but had not completed the paperwork prior to his death just three months later. His family, led by son David Naka, is honoring Dr. Naka’s commitment and plan to make the $1.5M gift to MU. In recognition of this gift and Dr. 

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Naka’s significant achievements, we respectfully request Engineering Building West be renamed in honor of F. Robert and Patricia Naka.

The Lafferre Hall 1935/44 renovation and repair project will extensively renovate 69,000 gsf of area currently in the 1935 and 1944 additions, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and building envelop, and include reconfiguration of portions of the current structure to improve accessibility; increase space utilization for instructional, research and collaboration; and simplify wayfinding. The scope also includes 16,000 gsf renovation of the 1892 Building, the 1893/1993 Auditorium and Connector, reroofing of the 1991 Addition, and repair of the 1958 Addition air-handling unit.

The Curators approved this project at the December 2014 Curator meeting.
No. 8

Recommended Action – Naming Opportunity Engineering Building West, MU

It was recommended by Chancellor Loftin, endorsed by President Wolfe, moved by Curator ______________ and seconded by Curator ______________, that the following action be approved:

that MU Engineering Building West be named the F. Robert and Patricia Naka Hall after Dr. Fumio Robert and Patricia Naka.

Roll call vote Full Board: YES NO
Curator Covington
Curator Cupps
Curator Graham
Curator Henrickson
Curator Phillips
Curator Snowden
Curator Steelman
Curator Steward

The motion ________________.