

COLLEGE STATION

Bad hip no match for tenacity

By Mary Dahdouh

Despite being told by a physician that she would be bedridden, 91-year-old Macille Moore proved Friday she was as tenacious as her husband, known as the “Bull of the Brazos,” as she walked to the front of a crowd to accept an honor on behalf of the late state Sen, W.T. “Bill” Moore at a Texas A&M celebration.

Despite a 14-year-old hip implant that was collapsing and pushing through her pelvic wall, Dr. Stephen Incavo was able to perform a complex operation that allowed the Bryan woman to beat the odds against ever walking again. The Houston surgeon’s expertise enabled her to meet her goal of standing up for her husband, for whom the Texas A&M University System’s headquarters building has been renamed.

The surgery removed her old implant and reconstructed the pelvic bone to support the new hip replacement, Incavo said.

“It’s not a very commonly performed surgery, and given her age, it’s a very big operation,” said Incavo, the division chief of adult reconstructive surgery in the department of orthopedic surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital. “At first she was a little nervous, but when she decided she wanted to do it, she was moving fullsteam ahead.”

Macille Moore said her appearance at Friday’s event was made possible only with Incavo’s help.



Associated Press

Chancellor John Sharp hugs Macille Moore before Friday’s ceremony honoring her late husband, state Sen. W.T. “Bill” Moore, at the main Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

Moore’s widow gives her doctor credit

“Without the surgery, I would have been in a wheelchair if I had even gotten there,” she declared. “I was able to walk with my walker. That made (it) perfect.”

Bill Moore, who graduated from A&M when it was a college, taught there in the early 1940s before joining the U.S. Army during World War II. He went on to author and sponsor more than 50 pieces of legislation for the Texas A&M System during his more than 30 years as a state senator.

“There is no other public servant that has had as much an impact on the success of the A&M System as Bill Moore,” said John Sharp, chancellor

of The Texas A&M University System in a news release.

“He is largely responsible for the A&M System’s status as a world-class system of higher education. We will continue to build upon his legacy.”

Known as the “father of the modern Texas A&M University,” the Democratic lawmaker served from the mid-1940s to 1981, and is most celebrated for his efforts to open the school to women students.

His term in office included a time when John B. Connally was governor in the 1960s. The campus administration building was originally named for the former governor, but

now is known as the Moore-Connally Building.

Just as her husband, who died in 1999, tirelessly sought to improve public education in Texas, Macille Moore on Friday showed her own inner strength at the ceremony, which included unveiling a bust of her husband. Even though her physician was unable to attend, Moore credits Incavo with making the celebration “quite an affair.”

“I’d say he’s the greatest doctor I know,” she said. “He gave me my life back.”

mary.dahdouh@chron.com