



# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



## Message from the President

**Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C**

*“History matters.”* That was the clear message delivered by respondents to a survey of PA program directors in February

when the PA History Society sought to determine their awareness of educational resources offered by the Society, the frequency that programs use our products and services in their curriculum, and what the educators’ future needs are. We thank all who completed the survey.

Nearly *all* respondents believe that sharing the history of our profession is important. That is why the Society works so diligently to provide access to quality products for PA programs, educators and students. In fact, the survey results show that many of our member programs have:

- corresponded with the Society for advice on [teaching PA History to students](#) and on saving, storing and preserving their own program’s history;
- hosted representatives from the Society for lectures and speaking events, such as graduation or white coat ceremonies; and
- accessed the [oral histories](#) located on our website for curriculum enhancement.

To continue to support these programs, PAHx Society will pursue new ways to market our website and products that help make sharing PA history easy. We will design more educational tools that can be used with a variety of teaching methodologies.

*(President’s Message continued on page 2)*

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## Fundraiser Underway to Upgrade the Veterans Memorial Garden at the Stead Center

PAHx and the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants are joining efforts to expand and upgrade the John McElligott Veterans Memorial Garden at the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants located in Durham, NC. The garden honors PAs who have served or are currently serving in the uniformed services of our country, especially the former medical corpsmen who became PAs and pioneered the profession 50 years ago. **What better way to celebrate our 50th anniversary than to honor the pioneers who made it possible for us to have such rewarding and meaningful careers?**

*(Fundraiser Underway to Upgrade the Veterans Memorial Garden continued on page 2)*

*(President’s Message continued from page 1)*

Progress continues with other important PAHx Society projects:

- We are working with the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants to enhance the Veteran’s Memorial Garden at The Stead Center in Durham. During the upcoming April board meeting, trustees will consider fundraising campaigns for the garden upgrades to honor PA veterans for their service to our profession and our country. (Read more about this on p. 1.)
- In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the profession, the Society is working with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) on a traveling banner display by assisting in the development of items that represent the PA profession. PAHx Associate programs will have the opportunity to have the PAHx-NLM PA Profession Banner Exhibit on display at their programs sometime during 2017 through 2021.

The PAHx Society will host a booth at the AAPA conference in San Antonio this May. Please stop by, say hello and visit with staff and board members about events, products and ways to become involved with the PAHx Society.

The history of our profession provides a strong foundation for our professional identity as PAs. We look forward to sharing this history with all members of our profession so they can realize the importance of their place in the growth of this remarkable profession.

*(Fundraiser Underway to Upgrade the Veterans Memorial Garden continued from page 1)*

Please consider donating **\$50** to help us celebrate the **50th** anniversary of the PA profession. With your support, we can reach our goal of \$67,000, the amount required to expand the Veterans Garden as a “place of remembrance” for veteran PAs. Currently, the Society has received \$24,100 in donations toward this goal. We plan to dedicate the

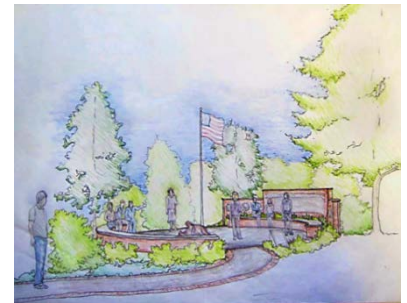
professionally landscaped Veteran Garden in April 2017.



The Garden was established in 2007 when a bronze statue of a medic bandaging the wounds of a fallen soldier was given to the PA History Society

to commemorate the contributions of former military corpsmen as pioneers of the PA profession. The garden was dedicated in honor of Dr. John McElligott, a former corpsmen, on Veterans Day in 2008 for his generous support of the Society.

Your gift will help us fence in the area, add a walkway and patio area surrounding the bronze statue and flagpole, add brick benches and a brick wall of remembrance with bronze plaques representing each branch of the uniformed services. Engraved named pavers and bricks will be embedded in the walkway and surrounding patio to honor veteran PAs and their service to our country.



You can make your **donation of \$50**, or more, online via Pay Pal (<http://www.pahx.org/donate-pa-history-society>) or you can mail a check, made payable to the PA History Society with “Veterans Garden Project” in the memo line to:

Lori Konopka-Sauer, Managing Director  
 PA History Society  
 12000 Findley Road, Suite 160  
 Johns Creek, GA 30097

Visit the [PAHx website](http://www.pahx.org) or [Facebook](#) page for the latest updates on the Veterans Garden project and our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support!

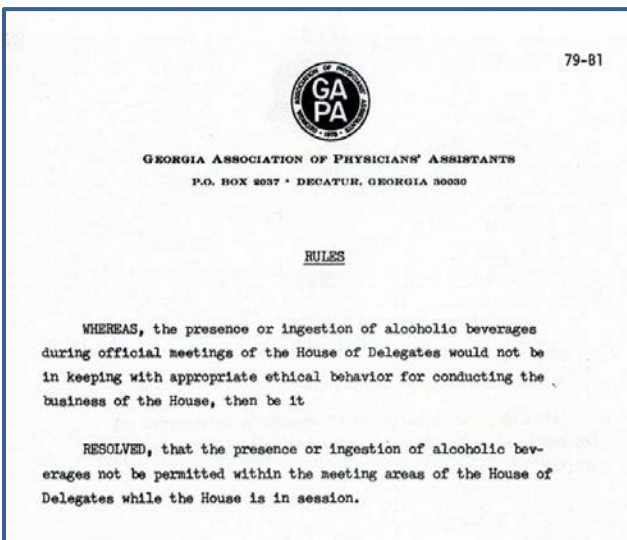
## Witness to History – Alcohol and Tobacco Policies

*Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA*

At the 1979 Annual PA Conference in Hollywood, Florida, the AAPA House of Delegates (the PA profession’s policymaking body) adopted two rules proposed by the Georgia Association of PAs that prohibited the presence or ingestion of alcoholic beverages and tobacco in all meeting rooms.

While the need for these “rules” seems unbelievable today, until smoking was restricted in all US federal government facilities in 1979, drinking and smoking in public places, such as hotel or convention center meeting rooms, was considered normal. Of course, these 1979 policies were just the beginning of changes that would take place over decades to come. For example, Congress prohibited smoking on domestic commercial airline flights less than 2 hours long in 1988. The ban was extended to all commercial U.S. flights in 1990.

Since the simple 1979 prohibitions, the AAPA House of Delegates has adopted policy statements about alcohol and tobacco use, abuse and cessation. Today’s policies, as shown below, demonstrate just how far we have progressed since 1979.



### ALCOHOL

AAPA advocates responsible behavior concerning alcohol use and encourages public education efforts regarding its potential for abuse.

AAPA supports legislation that encourages states to impose minimum mandatory sanctions against convicted drunken drivers and that encourages states to establish comprehensive alcohol-traffic safety programs which would help to assure stronger laws, stringent enforcement, and effective rehabilitation programs.

AAPA supports the following recommendations to reduce under-age access to alcohol and to save lives:

1. That it be illegal for individuals under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their bodies.
2. That retailers and individuals be held accountable/liable for negligently providing alcohol to a minor.
3. That advertisers promoting alcoholic beverages be required to provide balanced time for the promotion of responsible alcohol use.

The AAPA encourages all PAs to support legislative efforts to maintain the legal drinking age at 21 years.

### TOBACCO

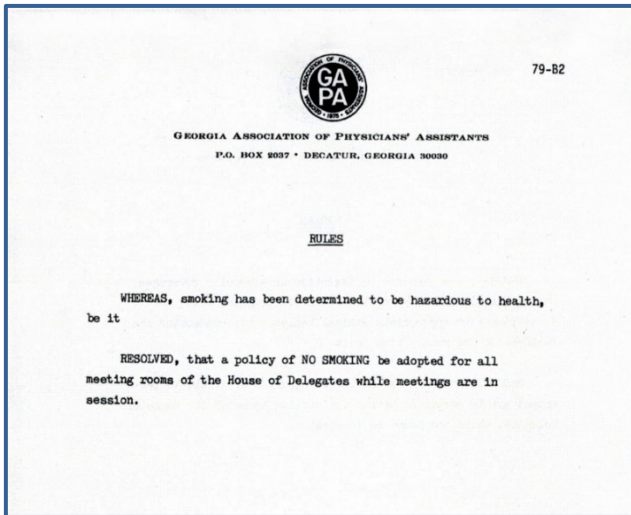
AAPA supports the position of the Surgeon General and encourages PAs to increase patient awareness as to the dangers in the use of tobacco products. All PAs should strive to eliminate the use of tobacco products from their personal lives and the lives of their colleagues and patients.

AAPA recognizes the public health hazards of tobacco as a leading cause of preventable disease and encourages efforts to eliminate tobacco use in this country and around the world.

*(Witness to History – Alcohol and Tobacco Policies continued on page 4)*

*(Witness to History – Alcohol and Tobacco Policies continued from page 3)*

AAPA encourages PAs to work to eliminate the public’s exposure to secondhand smoke, eliminate minors’ access to tobacco products and prohibit advertising of tobacco products.



The AAPA supports state utilization of tobacco settlement money for prevention and treatment of tobacco use. The Academy urges its constituent organizations to work with state governments and other health care and advocacy organizations to assure appropriate use of tobacco settlement funds.

The AAPA supports (a) development and promotion of smoking cessation materials and programs to advance consumer health-awareness among all segments of society, but especially for youth; (b) dissemination of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines concerning the treatment of patients with nicotine dependence; (c) effective use of both smoking cessation materials and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines by PAs, for the treatment of patients with nicotine dependence.

AAPA encourages PAs to model smoking cessation activities in their practices, including (a) quitting smoking and assisting their colleagues to quit; (b) inquiring of all patients at every visit about their use of tobacco in any form; (c) at every visit, counseling those who smoke to quit smoking and eliminate the

use of tobacco in all forms; (d) working to prohibit all smoking in the office by patients, clinicians, and office staff; and discouraging smoking in hospitals where they work; (e) providing smoking cessation pamphlets in the waiting room; (f) becoming aware of smoking cessation programs in the community and of their success rates and, where possible, referring patients to those programs.

AAPA supports national, state, and local efforts to help PAs and PA students develop skills necessary to counsel patients to quit smoking identify gaps, including (a) identifying gaps, if any, in existing materials and programs designed to train PAs and PA students in the behavior modification skills necessary to successfully counsel patients to stop smoking; (b) supports the production of materials and programs that would fill gaps, if any, in materials and programs to train PAs and PA students in the behavior modification skills necessary to successfully counsel patients to stop smoking; (c) encourages constituent organizations to sponsor, support, and promote efforts that will help PAs to more effectively counsel patients to stop smoking; and (d) encourages PAs to participate in education programs to enhance their ability to help patients quit smoking.

The AAPA supports third-party coverage for the treatment of nicotine addiction and the management of behavioral dependence associated with tobacco use.

**PA Program Directors:**

**Share your feedback with the Society about the 50th Anniversary of the PA Profession in 2017.**

**Watch for an email that will be sent to you by the end of April.**

**The Society welcomes your comments and appreciates your participation!**

## History Society Trustees and Staff

### President

Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C

### Immediate Past President

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Historian

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## Visit the PAHx Booth during the AAPA Conference



We hope to see you in San Antonio! Whether you're a PA "fossil," a PA "fossil wannabee," or simply "love PA history," please stop by the PA History Society's booth for free ribbons and special giveaways.

The **PAHx Booth** will be located in the **Fountain View area on the Meeting Level**. Learn about the Society's initiative to enhance the Stead Center *Veterans Memorial Garden*, and our collaboration with the **National Library of Medicine** to develop a six banner *traveling exhibit on the PA Profession* that will tour U.S. libraries and universities for five years. You'll also be able to check out the Society's "Educational" and "Historian" Toolkits!

The PAHx booth will be open:

- Friday, May 13, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 14, 6:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 15 – Tuesday, May 17, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## New Book on the History of the MEDEX Northwest PA Program

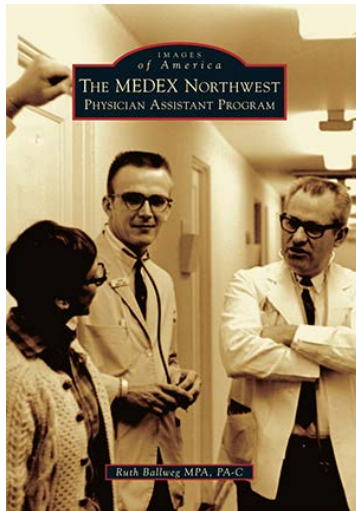
PA History Society Historian Ruth Ballweg is the author of a recently published book ([Arcadia Publishing](#)). The MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program, which documents the history of this groundbreaking and influential PA program.

*(New Book on the History of the MEDEX Northwest PA Program continued on page 6)*

*(New Book on the History of the MEDEX Northwest PA Program continued from page 5)*

Ruth was MEDEX Northwest PA Program Director from 1985-2014. In this passage from the book, she describes the early thinking about the MEDEX program: *“This program was created at the University of Washington in 1968 as one of the nation’s first physician assistant (PA) programs. A joint project of the Washington State Medical Association and the University of Washington School of Medicine, MEDEX was designed to meet the needs of overworked physicians in rural communities.*

*As envisioned by MEDEX founder Dr. Richard A. Smith, ‘Physician Assistants were created by physicians, for physicians.’ Initially, all MEDEX students were former military corpsmen returning from Vietnam. Based on their extensive clinical experience, they were well accepted by doctors and their patients. Dr. Richard Smith was a former Peace Corps physician and leader of the federal project to desegregate the US hospital ‘system’ as a requirement for Medicare reimbursement. Dr. Smith’s founding principles for MEDEX included a collaborative model for community and practitioner involvement – the framework for the MEDEX Program throughout its 45-year history.”*



[Arcadia Publishing](#) assists authors with publishing books about their hometown and community history. Headquartered in Charleston, SC, their books are composed of over 200 historic photographs and informative captions.

## An Appreciation for William G. Anlyan, MD (1925-2016)

*Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD*

One of the great champions for the physician assistant program at Duke University and physician assistants nationally, William G. Anlyan, MD died at age 90 on January 17, 2016.



As chairman of surgery and then dean of Duke University’s School of Medicine, he was a close colleague of Eugene A. Stead MD, the Founder of the nation’s first PA program. The photograph of his signing the certificates of the graduates of the first PA class in 1967 has reached iconic status.



He was instrumental in obtaining federal funding for the rapid expansion of PA programs in the early 1970s.

One of three brothers, he was born in Alexandria, Egypt and was admitted to Yale University at age 16. He graduated from the medical school at Yale before completing his residency in thoracic surgery at Duke.

*(An Appreciation for William G. Anlyan, MD continued on page 7)*

*(An Appreciation for William G. Anlyan, MD continued from page 6)*

Dr. Anlyan was a renowned thoracic surgeon, who also thrived as an educator and administrative leader. He served for many years as chancellor of Duke University and a trustee of the Duke Endowment. He was a major force in the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), a founding member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a recipient of the Abraham Flexner Award for his contribution to medical education. Under his leadership, the Duke Medical Center witnessed significant growth, and he was recognized for nurturing the careers of his colleagues. In 1995, he received the Duke Medical Alumni Association's inaugural lifetime achievement award, which was named in his honor.

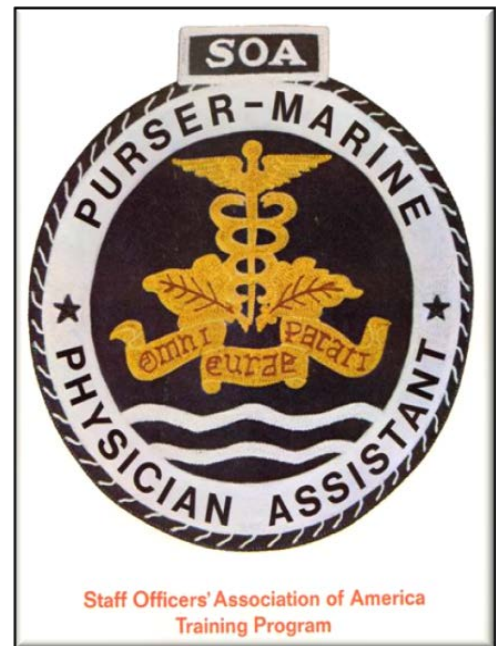
Another of his great interests at Duke was the creation of its Medical Center Library. He was a major planner and fundraiser for the construction of a state of the art library, completed in 1975. His library interests led him to be chosen as chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. Anlyan also was active in the World Health Organization, led Duke's health care delegation to the People's Republic of China in 1975, and served as a U.S. delegate on medical affairs in Poland, Egypt, Japan, and Saudi Arabia. He was a member of numerous international societies.

He is survived by his wife, three children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

## From Our Archives: Marine Physician Assistants *Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA*

Our collection contains this 1970 bulletin (right) that describes the curriculum for the Purser-Marine Physician Assistant Program based in the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Staten Island, New York. In 1966, the U.S. Coast Guard began

certifying graduates of the Staff Officers' Association (SOA) Purser Mate Training Program as pharmacist mates, a term used during the Second World War. The designation of the graduates was changed in 1970, to Marine Physician Assistant. Applicants to the program had to have high school diplomas and experience as military corpsmen. The program took 12 months to complete and awarded a certificate. Graduates were qualified to both recognize and manage common medical problems and to maintain health aboard ship under the radio-contact supervision of land-based physicians. In 1981, the US Public Health Service ceased operation of its hospital and PA program. The hospital became known as the Bayley-Seton Hospital, and the program was renamed accordingly.



In 1995, the program changed its name to the St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center PA program, and in 2000 to the St. John's PA program. Five years later, after producing 1,000 PAs over a span of 35 years, the program closed its doors. *{Note: An evaluation of the Marine PA Program by W. J. DeMaria was published in HSMHA Health Rep. 1971 Mar; 86(3): 195-201 and is available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1937084/>}*

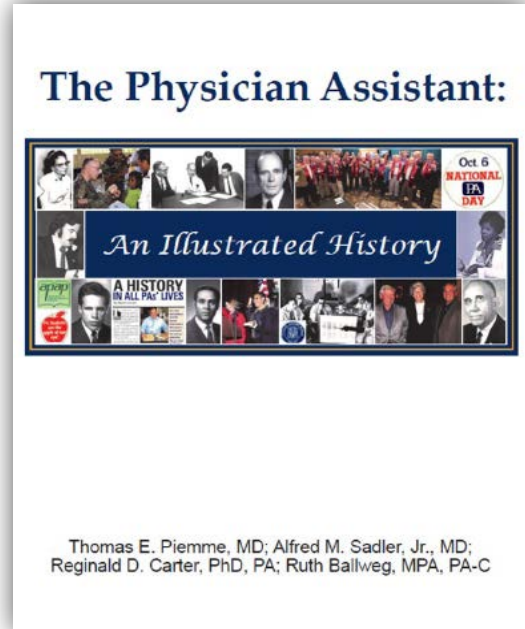
## The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

A concise history of the people, places, and events that have propelled the concept of the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT from its inception at Duke University in 1965 to its position as a major force in American medicine today.

### Special Pricing for PA Programs, PAs and Constituent Organizations:

**\$12 each** (retail price \$15.95)

- **\$10 each plus shipping & packaging for orders of 15 or more books**
- **Checks & credit cards accepted**



Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 (\$10 bulk) + **shipping \***

*\*If you are paying by check, please do not submit payment until you receive the final invoice with the shipping charges from the PAHx office.*

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<http://www.pahx.org/pa-history-book>**

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