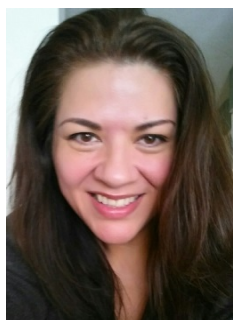




Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



Message from the President

Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C

Happy Spring and Happy 50th Anniversary to PAs across the country!

On April 8th, the PA History Society kicked off the semicentennial of the PA profession with a tribute to our founding military PAs. PAHx organized a beautiful ceremony and rededication of the renovated and expanded John McElligott Veterans Memorial Garden at the Stead Center in Durham, NC. It was a wonderful celebration. The PAHx encourages everyone to visit the Stead Center and the Veterans Garden whenever you are visiting the Durham area.



Read more about the commemoration on page 2 of this newsletter. Check out the ceremony photographs here:

<http://pahx.pastperfectonline.com/photo/D22705E5-C5A9-48CA-9E83-480944974440>

The PA History Society has been working on several other **50th Anniversary projects** included in this edition:

- a **special edition *Gasoline Alley* comic book** featuring the adventures of Chipper Wallet, PA-C

(President's Message, continued on page 2)

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National Public Radio Interview Features "50th Anniversary of PAs"

On April 7, the National Public Radio Atlanta radio station (WABE) included interviews of PAs in "A Closer Look." The host, Jim Burrell, interviewed Ken Ferrell, PA-C, one of the three first 1967 graduates of Duke University PA Program, and Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, president/CEO of

(NPR Interview, continued on page 2)

(NPR Interview, continued from page 1)

NCCPA. The segment, “50th Anniversary of PAs” occurs at the 20-minute mark of the broadcast. <http://news.wabe.org/post/closer-look-syrian-air-strikes-physician-assistants-and-more> --

Mr. Burress asked Ken Ferrell:

- why he took the chance 50 years ago to enroll in the first ever PA program.
- what the first PA program classes covered and what it was like to be a pioneer in the profession.
- what changes he has seen in PA scope of practice over the past 50 years.
- how the profession will change in the next 50 years.

Dawn Morton-Rias answered questions about:

- the eligibility requirements for admission to PA school, the educational curriculum, degree granted and certification requirements of PAs.
- the differences between PAs in 1967 and 2017.
- where the profession is headed in the next 50 years.
- the Veterans Memorial Garden dedication ceremony on April 8.



In closing, Ken Ferrell gave advice to potential and current PAs. *"... patients don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Resist becoming so busy that you don't have time to be a good listener. There is no better way to let a patient know that you care than to be a good listener."*

(President's Message continued from page 1)

- a **50th Anniversary Toolkit** for PAHx Associates
- the PA profession **traveling banner exhibit**, created in partnership with the National Library of Medicine
- a colorful **50th Anniversary Poster**
- a limited edition **50th Anniversary Lapel Pin**

As the PA profession celebrates five decades of providing healthcare excellence, the PA History Society is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Over the years, the Society has collected many interesting historical resources that are featured on the PAHx [website](http://www.pahx.org) for generations to enjoy. The Society welcomes financial donations and historical materials from the profession. Please contact our staff at contactus@pahx.org for details on the scope of acquisitions we can accept.

Please come by the **PAHx booth at the annual AAPA Conference in Las Vegas this month** to say hello. The PA community is always welcome!

Veteran Memorial Garden Dedication

Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA

On a comfortable, blue-skied spring afternoon, over 80 individuals gathered on April 8th to rededicate the John McElligott Veterans Memorial Garden at the Stead Center in Durham, NC. The attendees enjoyed a moving ceremony surrounded by the circular plaza with camellias, pansies, Japanese laceleaf maple trees, brick and fine



Garden Photograph courtesy of Ken Harbert

(Garden Dedication on page 3)

(Garden Dedication continued from page 2)

slate-pavers and plaques honoring PA veterans. The medic statue, *“Life Savers Then – Care Givers Now”* was the focal point of the ceremony.



John McElligott

Ph.D., PA; John McElligott, PA, MD, for whom the garden is named; Michael Milner, DHsc, PA-C, RADM, USPH (Retired), who spoke on behalf of the AAPA Veteran Caucus; and the garden’s design architect, Julie Sherk, RLA, ASLA, a North Carolina State University professor.



Mike Milner

Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C, president of the PA History Society, recognized donors, contributors and honored guests, including Ken Ferrell, one of the first



Jimmie Keller & George McCullough

and Alfred Sadler, Jr., two pioneering physicians who helped develop model legislation for the PA profession.

Speakers included North Carolina Academy of PAs President Truett Smith, PA-C; PA History Society Historian Emeritus Reginald Carter,

three Duke PA graduates; George McCullough and Jimmie Keller, two of the first PAs assigned to the medical staff of the White House; and Drs. Harvey Estes, Jr.

Joseph Kelly, chief operations officer for the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, spoke of his personal experience being cared for by Air Force PAs and expressed his appreciation for a garden honoring veteran PAs.

Representatives of the four national PA organizations that supported the construction of the garden included NCCPA President/CEO Dawn Morton-Rias, Ed.D., PA-C; ARC-PA board member, Patti Ragan, Ph.D., PA-C; PAEA President William C. Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C; and AAPA Immediate Past President Jeffrey Katz, PA-C.

The Womack Army Medical Center Color Guard and a bugler from Fort Bragg participated in the ceremony, presenting and retiring colors and playing taps. Although he could not attend, Don Pedersen, PhD, PA, the originator of the combat medic statue *“Life Savers Then – Care Givers Now,”* sent remarks in which he noted that the sculptor, John Prazen, was a former US Navy Corpsman during the Korean War who at one time considered becoming a PA. Pedersen concluded by thanking donors “for providing such a magnificent setting for the sculpture, which I believe captures the caring and compassion of our military forebearers, and provides a lasting reminder of our noble profession’s unique history.”



John Davis, Earl Echard, Dawn Morton-Rias, Lovest Alexander and James Carter

We invite all PAs, friends, family and the public to visit the Veterans Memorial Garden when visiting the Durham, NC area. The list of PA veterans who are honored with garden pavers may be found [here](#). If you are or know a PA veteran who is not yet recognized with a paver [you may order one](#).

PA History Society Celebrates 15th Year Anniversary

Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA

In addition to dedicating the Veterans Memorial Garden, the PA History Society celebrated its 15th anniversary at the Stead Center on April 8th. The PAHx Board of Trustees held their meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in the morning. They attended a dual dedication and anniversary ceremony in the afternoon.

NCCPA President/CEO Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, provided opening remarks, and on behalf of the NCCPA's Board of Directors, expressed pride in having the PA History Society as a supporting organization. She noted the many accomplishments of the Society over the past six years in preserving, analyzing and documenting the history and legacy of the PA profession.

PAHx Historian Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus, described the founding of the PA History Society and its accomplishments. She noted that the National Library of Medicine (NLM) banner exhibit



PA History Society Board of Trustees and Friends, Veterans Memorial Garden, April 8, 2017.

on display at the Stead Center and the beautiful Veterans Memorial Garden are two tangible examples of the PAHx commitment to showcase the history and legacy of the PA profession. She read comments from Jeff Henrich, EdD, PA, a cofounder and first president of the PA History Society. He thanked individuals who have served on the Board of Trustees and expressed his appreciation of the

NCCPA for their extraordinary and important support.

PAHx President Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C, expressed her appreciation to all past and current trustees, donors, founding members, associates and sponsors of the Society.



Karen Mulitalo

The ceremony ended with a reception and toast from Reginald Carter, Ph.D., PA, a cofounder and first executive director of the Society. He said in part, "the Society wants all of you in the PA profession to keep making history. We need the work." He closed with a toast and salute to the profession for its current and future success.



Dr. Reginald Carter toasts the PA History Society on its 15th Anniversary with Lori Konopka-Sauer, the Society's managing director. Stead Center, April 8, 2017.

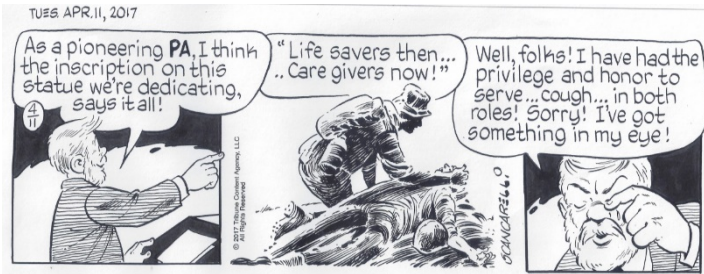
Cartoon Character Chipper Wallet Speaks at PA Veterans Memorial Garden Dedication

Thanks to Jim Scancarelli, cartoonist for *Gasoline Alley*TM, Chipper Wallet, PA-C, made it just in time to speak on behalf of pioneering PAs at the PA Veterans Memorial Garden dedication held at the

(Chipper Speaks, continued on page 5)

(Chipper Speaks continued from page 4)

Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants in Durham, NC. On the way to the ceremony, Chipper's car broke down, and he had to scramble to make the event. As you can see from the following strip, Chipper recovers his composure but becomes somewhat emotional as he begins to speak.



Although not there in reality, Chipper was present as a life-size cutout in the lobby of the Stead Center for photograph opportunities. He was also visible on a poster congratulating PAs on their 50th anniversary. Chipper's adventures as a PA will soon be available in a Gasoline Alley™ Special Edition Comic Book. Follow Chipper's appearance at the dedication ceremony at GoComics by clicking [here](#).

Gasoline Alley® Chipper Wallet® © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

PAHx Celebrates 15 years by Documenting Its Own History!

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

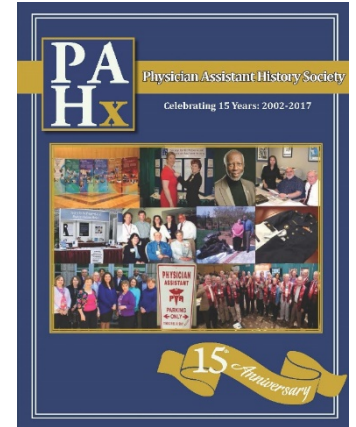
Did you know? The PA History Society ...

- was incorporated in January 2002.
- was originally established to oversee and to provide funding for the Physician Assistant History "Center" established at Duke University in May 2001.
- owns museum items, including a replica of Dr. Stead's lake house office, on permanent display at the Stead Center in Durham, North Carolina.
- had over 200 founding members.
- has a national office located in Johns Creek, a northern suburb of Atlanta, GA.

Today, the PAHx is recognized as the leader in fostering the preservation, study and presentation of the history of the PA profession. One of the aims of the PAHx is to illustrate how PAs have made and continue to make a difference in the delivery of accessible, affordable and high quality health care services to America.

Read more about the establishment of the PA History Society, and learn about the various projects that the organization has developed in an

illustrated manuscript available on the PAHx website at <https://pahx.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PA-History-Society-Celebrating-15-Years-.pdf>.



Gasoline Alley Special Edition Comic Book

The PA History Society has signed an agreement with the Tribune Content Agency to produce a special edition comic book featuring Chipper Wallet, of *Gasoline Alley*®, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PA Profession.

The comic book follows Chipper over the span of 50 years, from his experiences in the military, as a PA student and as a pioneering PA working in a family practice clinic in his home town. Chipper's story historically parallels that of other former military corpsmen who became PAs, and the comic strip drew national attention to the PA concept in its formative years. Publishing Chipper's story as a special edition comic book will assure this connection to pop culture endures.

(Comic Book, continued on page 6)

(Comic Book, continued from page 5)

Cartoonist Dick Moores drew the comic strips of Chipper as a hospital corpsman and as a student. Gasoline Alley's current cartoonist, Jim Scancarelli, has drawn the final set of comic strips that began appearing in national newspapers in the fall of 2016. This commemorative comic book will be available for a donation to the PA History Society during the AAPA conference in Las Vegas, or by ordering it through the PAHx website.

Gasoline Alley© and Chipper Wallet are owned and distributed by Tribune Content Agency, Chicago, IL.

Viva Las Vegas!

We hope to see you in Las Vegas this month! Please stop by the PAHx Booth during the AAPA Conference to check out the exclusive **"50th anniversary items"**

including anniversary water bottles, limited edition 50th anniversary posters and lapel pins, and the exciting adventures of Chipper Wallet, captured in a special edition comic book. For the conference ribbon collectors, there are several new, fun badge ribbons, and much more!



The **PAHx booth** will be located in the conference registration area on the 2nd level of the South Convention Center at Mandalay Bay beginning at 1pm on Sunday, May 14th through Thursday, May 18th. We look forward to speaking with you!



The PAHx 50th Anniversary Toolkit Available in June!

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

The PAHx is creating a Toolkit for PAHx Program Associates to use as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PA profession this year. The Toolkit will include the following materials for educational and celebratory events:

- ❖ Power Point slide presentation
- ❖ PA profession timeline banner set (PDF)
- ❖ 50th anniversary poster
- ❖ 50th anniversary bookmark
- ❖ Press release
- ❖ Chipper Wallet cut-out (PDF)
- ❖ Chipper Wallet 50th anniversary poster (PDF)

PAHx Associates will receive the Toolkit materials with their paid 2017-2018 Associate fee. **If your PA program or constituent organization would like more information on becoming a PAHx Associate, please email us at contactus@pahx.org.**

All things PA History can be found on our website at www.pahx.org!



50 Years Later: How Did It All Begin?

Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

In the late 1950s and 1960s, the United States was facing a shortage of medical practitioners. Doctors were choosing to be specialists rather than general practitioners, and many were moving to cities, leaving rural areas without proper medical care.

Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr., from Duke University, stepped onto the scene in 1957 to try to work out a solution. He worked with a nurse, Thelma M. Ingles, to make a prototype of a curriculum for nurse practitioners. Working together, they established a masters degree program at the Duke University School of Nursing. The project did not succeed. The program produced highly trained nurses but ultimately was denied accreditation by the National League for Nursing. At the time, nurses were concerned that the public saw them as only handmaidens to doctors and were working very hard to change that perception of their profession. The reliance of the new program on physicians in the training process was not popular and ultimately not in their favor.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (which also called for the desegregation of hospitals) and the 1965 implementation of Medicare and Medicaid increased the need for basic medical services that had already been in short supply for a decade. Since 1959 there had been discussion of using former military medical corpsmen to create “mid-level” providers to help physicians.

In 1964, Dr. Stead decided to try again, this time announcing his intention to start a program to train former medical corpsmen to help alleviate the healthcare crisis. The first physician assistant

educational program was created at Duke University in 1965. The first three PA graduates - Richard J. Scheele, Victor H. Germino, and Kenneth F. Ferrell – graduated from the program in 1967, marking the start of the PA profession.

For greater detail about the founding of the PA profession and the people responsible for its success, please read [*The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History*](#), created by the PA History Society. The book also discusses the founding of the four PA organizations and other major milestones of the profession.

PAHx Announces New levels of Recognition for Associates

Check your mailbox next month for the *new* “Associate invoice.” The annual invoices will be sent to PA programs and constituent organizations in June.

At its recent spring board meeting, the PAHx Trustees defined new levels of support for PAHx Associates. PA programs and PA constituent organizations now will be recognized for annual donations to the Society at the following levels:

Founder	\$1,000
Historian	\$ 500
Scribe	\$ 250

All organizations giving at those levels will receive Associate benefits, which include:

- **online Educational Toolkit**, which provides primary and secondary source materials. The Toolkit helps students learn and appreciate the development, growth and impact that the PA profession has had on American medicine for the past 50 years.
- **online Historian Toolkit**, which provides guidance in documenting and preserving the history and milestones of a program or institution.

(Associate Support, continued on page 8)

(Associate Support, continued from page 7)

- **Recognition in a feature article on the PAHx website home page** with content provided by the program or constituent organization. The featured Associate information may include historical information, faculty or member profiles, student achievements, and other unique features.
- **access to the PAHx Speakers Bureau** to find an appropriate speaker for significant events in the academic year, such as the white coat ceremony or graduation exercises. PAHx Trustees are also available to conduct telephone or email interviews with students for class projects. Constituent organization conferences may also access the Bureau.
- **access to the PAHx digital images "free of charge."**
- **Recognition on the Associates page of the PAHx website**, with a link to the website of the program or constituent organization
- **A photograph of the first graduating class of the PA program** featured on the PAHx website (Associates First Graduating Class page) with a link to the program's own website.

In addition, *individuals* may support the PAHx by becoming a **"Friend"** of the Society with a \$100 annual donation. The "Friends" of the Society will be listed on the PAHx website.

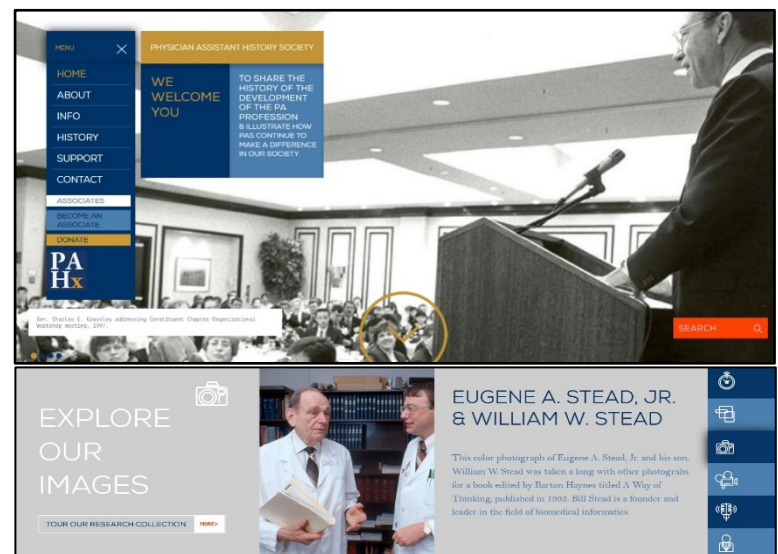
Have you seen the new PAHx Website?

The PAHx website has been revamped using adaptive web design. Now it is easy to read on your smartphone or tablet. New features and exhibits are added regularly. Come scroll through the 50 years of PA history that are waiting to be explored at www.pahx.org.

Meet Our Newest Team Member

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

Connie Mara joined the PAHx staff in December 2016, bringing over 15 years of administrative experience to the team. She works part-time in the PAHx office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, overseeing various administrative functions for the organization: distributing PAHx books and other PAHx products; processing orders for engraved brick pavers for the Veterans Memorial Garden; and distributing via email the quarterly *Historical Happenings* newsletters and annual "Associate Fee" invoices. Ms. Mara was raised in Ohio and lived in California before moving to Georgia. She is married and has a nine-year-old daughter. Ms. Mara's hobbies include photography, arts & crafts, creative writing, reading, piano and traveling.



PA Banner Exhibition to be displayed at AAPA!

The Physician Assistant History Society, in partnership with the National Library of Medicine, launched *Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care*, a traveling banner exhibition supported by online educational modules. The six-banner exhibit



is currently traveling across the country over the next five years (2017-2021). During the past six months, the banners have visited seven venues in six states.

Please visit the NLM [Traveling Exhibition Services Web site](#) to see the complete tour itinerary and to [find this exhibition near you](#).

Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care describes the way the profession developed as a solution to meet the social and health care needs of the mid-20th century and continues to evolve today. The exhibit features stories of PAs in communities all over the world, on the front lines of health crises like the African Ebola epidemic. It also features PAs from the highest echelons of government, including Congresswoman Karen Bass from California and George McCullough, the first White House PA.

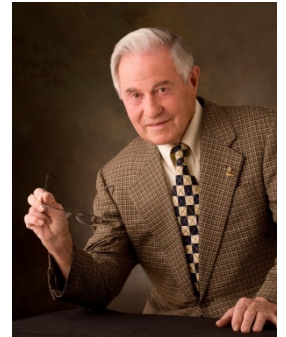
The *Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care* [online exhibition](#) offers [resources](#) for educators and students, including lesson plans for middle school and high school classrooms, a higher education module, an online activity and a robust selection of related links and suggested readings.

PASSINGS

Between December 26, 2016 and March 26, 2017 the PA profession lost four pioneers. The following information has been excerpted from remembrances written by Alfred M. Sadler, Ruth Ballweg, Margaret Chambers, Reginald Carter as well as PA History Society biographies, and public obituaries.

Charles Hilmon Castle, MD

Hilmon Castle, MD, died on December 26 at age 88 in Salt Lake City, UT, after an extended illness. Dr. Castle established the University of Utah's Department of Community and Family Medicine in 1971. The same year he and William Wilson, PhD founded that University's physician assistant program (MEDEX). The Utah PA program has now enrolled its 47th class and continues its tradition of excellence today.



Serving as the fourth president of APAP (now PAEA) from 1975-1977, Dr. Castle helped nurture the growth of the profession nationally and locally.

Dr. Castle was born in rural Mississippi, attended the University of Mississippi and in 1951 graduated from the Duke University Medical School where one of his mentors was Dr. Eugene Stead. He trained in internal medicine and cardiology and served as a flight surgeon in the USAF. He completed his career at Utah in cardiology while remaining a stalwart supporter of the PA program and its graduates. He was admired by patients, students and colleagues. In 1985, the Utah Medical Association named him "Physician of the Year." Dr. Castle's obituary is [here](#), and his PAHx biography [here](#). ~ Alfred M. Sadler, MD

(Passings, continued on page 10)

(Passings, continued from page 9)

Victor Hugo Germino, PA-C

Victor (Vic) H. Germino, PA-C, died unexpectedly at age 78 on March 1, 2017 in Durham, NC.



Mr. Germino was one of the first PAs to be educated and to work in the United States, graduating from Duke University's first PA class on October 6, 1967 along with Richard Scheele and Kenneth Ferrell, all former US Navy hospital corpsmen. They were handpicked by Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr. and other physicians at Duke to complete a two-year curriculum within the Department of Medicine.

In 1974, he became one of the first commissioned PA warrant officers in the U.S. Coast Guard, providing medical care at bases in Alaska, Florida and Washington. While based in Washington, Mr. Germino served as the only medical officer on the icebreaker USCG Polar Sea making a number of trips to the Arctic and later to the Antarctic for the National Science Foundation. After leaving the USCG, he returned to North Carolina to assist Dr. Anthony Fauci with an NIH AIDS clinical trials project and later as a clinical trials compliance auditor with ClinTrials, Inc. in the Research Triangle Park during the 1980s.

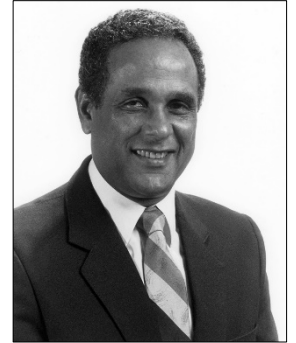
For the next 25 years, Germino worked in occupational medicine, being everything from a medical provider on the Alaskan oil pipeline to chief medical officer for an open-pit gold mine in Uzbekistan.

He established and operated PRN Medical Services, providing contractual medical services to clinics, hospitals and businesses within North Carolina until his retirement in 2008.

Mr. Germino's obituary is [here](#), and his PAHx biography [here](#). ~ *Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA*

Richard A. Smith, MD, MPH

Richard A. Smith, MD, MPH, died on March 10, 2017 at age 84 at his home in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Dr. Smith, recognized as a co-founder of the PA profession, along with Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr., (Duke University) and Dr. Henry K. Silver (University of Colorado) created one of the nation's first PA programs at the University of Washington (UW) in 1968. He used the term MEDEX (MEDical EXtension) to denote his systemic approach used to educate and place graduates in medically underserved communities. Dr. Smith helped replicate the MEDEX model at seven other universities throughout the United States and spent another 20 years adapting the MEDEX concepts and strategies for developing nations.

An officer in the US Public Health Service (PHS) for 25 years, Dr. Smith is remembered for his groundbreaking roles as the second PHS medical officer to go abroad (Nigeria) with the Peace Corps in 1961. He later served as deputy medical director of Peace Corps worldwide.

As director of field operations for the Office of Equal Health Opportunity (OEHO) in 1966, Dr. Smith helped to ensure desegregation of 7,000 American hospitals after the passage of Medicare and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The desegregation campaign of the OEHO was described as "perhaps the most peaceful and successful civil rights effort in American history," by *American Legacy* magazine in 2000.

Dr. Smith's obituary is [here](#), and his PAHx biography [here](#). ~ *Ruth Ballweg, PA-C Emeritus and Margaret Chambers*

(Passings, continued on page 11)

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(Passings, continued from page 10)

Donald W. Fisher, PhD

Donald W. Fisher, PhD, died on March 26 in Alexandria, VA, from cancer at age 71.



Dr. Fisher served as the first executive director of the joint national office for both APAP (now PAEA) and AAPA from 1973-1980 (based in Washington, DC). He was a leader in expediting the accreditation of PA programs (working with the American Medical Association) and enhancing the acceptance of PAs nationally by working with the individual states regarding licensure and credentialing. His leadership and hard work in the 1970s played a major role in putting the PA profession on the national map.

From 1980 until his death, he served as the president and CEO of the American Medical Group Association, leading it to become the voice of the nation's most prestigious multispecialty medical groups. He had a tremendous impact on American health care as a strong advocate for coordinated, integrated delivery systems, working to make his vision of superior patient care a reality.

Don was a natural and tireless leader and is remembered for his intelligence, fairness and wit.

The following links provide more information about Dr. Fisher's career with the [AAPA](#), [PAEA](#) and [AMGA](#). Dr. Fisher's obituary is [here](#), and his PAHx biography [here](#). ~ Alfred M. Sadler, MD

Stay in Touch with PAHx thru Social Media!

Please be sure to "like" PA History Society on [Facebook](#) to receive updates and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Check out the Society's [Blog](#)

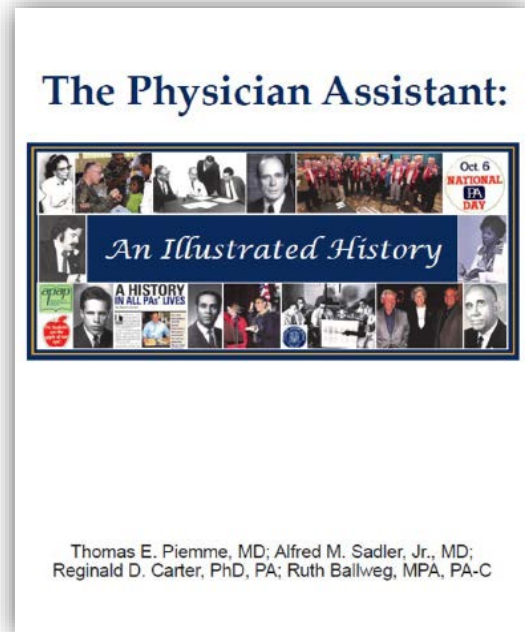
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<http://www.pahx.org/pa-history-book>**

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