

**Guide and Finding Aid for  
Kenneth Ferrell Papers, 1968-1989  
Bulk 1968-1978**



**Contact Information:**

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## **Abstract**

Contains the papers of Kenneth (Ken) F. Ferrell who was one of the first physician assistants (PAs) to be educated and to work in the United States. He was also a founding member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA). Types of materials include early editions of bylaws, brochures, certificates and newsletters of the AAPA and NCAPA; correspondence, newsletter clippings, manuscripts and reprints. The collection also contains two photographs of Ferrell taken by a photographer from Life Magazine in 1966.

## **Descriptive Summary**

### Repository

Physician Assistant History Society  
12000 Findley Road  
Suite 100  
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409

### Creator

Kenneth F. Ferrell

### Title

Kenneth F. Ferrell Papers, 1968-1989

### Call Number

AC2006-0062

### Extent

1 box,  
.75 linear feet

## **Administrative Information**

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

### Copyright Notice

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Kenneth F. Ferrell Papers, 1968-1989, Society for Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Johns Creek, GA, USA

### Acquisitions Information

Gift to Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History December 16, 2005; transferred partially processed from Duke University Medical Center (DUMC) Archives to the PA History Society, Johns Creek, GA, August 2011.

### Processing Information

Processed by Reginald Carter, October 3, 2012  
Encoded by TBA

## **Biographical Note**

Kenneth (Ken) Ferrell has the distinction of being one of the first physician assistants (PAs) to be educated and to work in the United States. He graduated from Duke University on October 6, 1967 along with two other individuals, Richard Scheele and Victor Germino, all former US Navy hospital corpsmen. He was a founding member and fellow of the AAPA and chaired the organizations Ethics Committee.

Ferrell remained at Duke after he graduated the PA program in 1967. He worked clinically for twenty years with pulmonary and allergy specialist Herbert O. Sieker, MD in the Department of Medicine at Duke. He left clinical practice to become an administrative manager with Duke's Private Diagnostic Clinic (PDC). Over time, he became an expert in the analyst of reimbursement, coding and compliance regulations - vital to revenue and billing operations. He also served as the clinic's medical auditor. On October 8, 2007 he was honored at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque placed in Baker House, Duke South, in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the graduation of the first class of PAs at Duke. He was inducted into the Duke PA Program's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

## **Collection Overview**

Organized into the following series: Papers, 1968-1989.

## **Online Catalog Headings**

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

- Physician Assistants--USA
- Physician Assistants—History
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants

## **Collection Series**

Papers, 1968-1989

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Papers, 1968-1989**

This collection contains the agenda of the first meeting and the first series of newsletters published by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), 1968-1971. It contains copies of early studies and reports about PAs and several photographs of Ferrell and his

classmates taken by Life Magazine in 1966. Other items include bylaws and early newsletter published by the NCAPA. Personal items include membership certificates awarded to Ferrell by the AAPA and NCAPA.

Box 1

American Association of Physician Assistants 1968-1971

Articles on Physician Assistant Feasibility and Productivity 1970

Brochures and Pamphlets 1968-1981

Conference on the current status and development of the PA Oct 28-29, 1968

Fact Sheets

General 1968-1970

"Heartbeat of the Duke University Medical Center" V3, No.7 Feb. 18, 1981

Photographs and Certificates 1968-1976

Reports pertaining to PA education and Utilization

NCAPA Correspondence and Bylaws 1976-1978

North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants Committees 1978

North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants Newsletters 1977-1985