

**Guide and Finding Aid for  
Thomas R. Godkins Papers, 1968-1993**



**Contact Information:**

Physician Assistant History Society  
12000 Findley Road  
Suite 100  
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409  
Email: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)

## **Abstract**

Contains the papers of Thomas R. Godkins who served twice as the president of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (1972-73 and 1975-1976) and was the first non-physician President (1979-1980) of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (now the Physician Assistant Education Association). Types of materials include early editions of bylaws, brochures and newsletters of the AAPA; correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings and manuscripts and reprints.

## **Descriptive Summary**

### Repository

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

### Creator

Thomas R. Godkins

### Title

Thomas R. Godkins Papers, 1968-1993

### Call Number

NA

### Extent

1 box,  
.75 linear feet

## **Administrative Information**

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

### Copyright Notice

Copyright for the Society of Physician Assistant History records is held by the Society; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Thomas R. Godkins Papers, 1968-1993, Society for Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Johns Creek, GA, USA

### Acquisitions Information

Gift to Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History June 2006; transferred unprocessed from Duke University Medical Center (DUMC) Archives to the PA History Society, NCCPA, August 2011.

### Processing Information

Processed by Reginald Carter, June 2012

Encoded by TBA

## **Biographical Note**

Thomas Regis Godkins was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on January 5, 1944. He served as a US Navy Corpsman from 1964-1967, with his last duty being to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. He graduated from the Duke Physician Assistant Program in 1969. He received a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Oklahoma following undergraduate work at Youngstown, Duke, and Oklahoma. He was the first PA to be employed by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and their first formally trained PA to be placed in a satellite clinic. He served on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) for 35 years; 10 years as Associate Director of the PA Program and 25 years with the central administration as Assistant Provost, Director of Capital Planning, and Associate Vice President for Facilities Management.

Godkins served twice as the president of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (1972-73 and 1975-1976) and was the first non-physician President (1979-1980) of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (now the Physician Assistant Education Association). He was a founding member and fellow of the AAPA and served as the first newsletter editor. In recognition of his many contributions, the Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants in collaboration with the University of Oklahoma Physician Associate Program established an endowed Annual PA Student Scholarship Award in his name. Godkins died June 28, 2010.

## **Collection Overview**

Organized into the following series: Papers, 1968-1993.

## **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

## **Collection Series**

Papers, 1968-1993

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Papers, 1968-1993**

Contains first bylaws and newsletters of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Magazine and newspaper clippings include items of general interest of the PA

profession to items that highlight Godkins early career as a PA, especially at the Mayo Clinic. An item of interest is the script used for the AAPA awards presentation in 1993.

Box 1

AAPA Academy Awards Script 1993

AAPA Brochure 1971

AAPA Bylaws 1968

AAPA Newsletters 1968-1971

Clippings - General 1969-1972

Clippings - Godkins 1970-1972

Correspondence 1971-1972

Duke University 25th Anniversary PA Program 1990

Manuscript - Roots of the AAPA 1992

Reprints 1976, 1978