



# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



## Message from the President

*Deborah Gerbert, MS, PA-C*

On behalf of the PAHx Board, I would like to express our deepest condolences to Suellen Heinrich and her family for the recent death of her husband Jeff. He was a true PA pioneer, leader, and the co-founder of the PA History Society. You can read more about **Jeff Heinrich** on page 2 of this newsletter.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down for many and caused it to come to a screeching halt for many others. PAs are providing front line care to patients in emergency departments, medical offices and hospitals all over the world as we all hope for this to end with as few deaths as possible.

Because PAs are playing a large role in patient care during this global pandemic, I want to encourage everyone to document your experiences and the experiences of your co-workers during this time. The **PA History Society** plans to **save the stories** and photographs from PAs, PA faculty and students **during the pandemic** to accurately preserve these unprecedented times in the history of the profession.

Sadly, we already know of PAs who have lost their lives to COVID-19. The PAHx intends to create a **“In Memoriam” webpage**.

Please email your PA stories, photos and the names of any PAs you know who have passed due to COVID-19 to the PAHx at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)

The PA History Society has not been spared from the recent shutdowns and social distancing precautions. Staff members are working from home and our Board of Trustees and board committees have met via conference calls to keep the important work of the Society progressing. The new history book is making tremendous progress under the leadership of

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PAHx Trustee Leslie Kole and Managing Director Lori Konopka-Sauer.

The PA History Society is now **accepting applications to fill three Board of Trustees positions** that will begin January 1, 2021. Please see our article on page 9 of this newsletter for details.

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep our families and friends safe during these difficult times.

**Please stay healthy and safe!**

## PAssages: J. Jeffrey Heinrich

Dr. J. Jeffrey Heinrich, EdD, PA-C Emeritus, of Guilford, Connecticut, passed away in his home May 10, 2020, at the age of 75 years. He is survived by his wife, Suellen, son, John, and daughter-in-law, Anna.



As a PA pioneer, Jeff had an enduring dedication to the profession and preserving its 53-year history. As the former historian for the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), he took the first steps to identify and to begin preserving the profession's primary source records and personal papers for future generations of PAs. In 2002, Dr. Heinrich co-founded the PA History Society with Dr. Reginald D. Carter. He was initially appointed and then elected to be the first President of the Society's Board of Trustees. Today, as a result of his legacy, all PAs are able to appreciate the history of their chosen profession.

Jeff was born February 17, 1945, and lived in Burlington, Vermont until starting his military service in 1964. He served in Vietnam as a Hospital Corpsman with the United States Marines Corps. He was the recipient of a Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Medal and Fleet Marine Forces Combat Operation Medal.

After serving in Vietnam and one year as a middle school teacher in Vermont, Jeff entered the Duke University PA Program in 1971. As a student leader, he became involved with AAPA and helped establish the Student Academy, serving as its first President. After graduation, he took a position within the Section of Plastic Surgery of the Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. He worked as a clinical PA in the surgical emergency room and on the burn service, eventually devoting most of his time to taking care of burn-injured patients and general plastic surgery patients. He was one of the first PAs granted membership in the American Burn Association.

Jeff's other PA contributions included educating PAs (Yale University, George Washington University, Norwalk Hospital/Yale University PA Surgical Residency Program, and Lincoln Memorial University); governing and leading PAs (Connecticut Academy of PAs, DC Academy of PAs, AAPA Board of Directors); writing and research (Physician Assistant Journal, the Journal of Burn Care and Rehabilitation); and philanthropy (the AAPA Educational and Research Foundation, the ConnAPA Foundation, PAHx Lifetime Circle of Friends).

He will be forever remembered and missed throughout the PA community for his warmth and compassion to friends and patients, his modesty, his ready smile and sense of humor, and his generosity.



**Reginald Carter** – *“To say it simply, I loved Jeff. I loved working, talking, joking, laughing and just being with him. We both shared an appreciation of PA history and wanted to see it preserved for future generations of PAs. We continually sought each other's advice. I especially have fond memories of meeting Jeff at the VA Hospital in Richmond VA to discuss the formation of the PA History Society and how to raise funds and grow the Society's membership. Staffing the PA History Society's booth at AAPA and PAEA meetings was always a treat and much fun. Jeff was undeniably a pioneering PA whose clinical, leadership and academic roles expanded over time. He took a genuine interest in the welfare of his patients, colleagues and students. I will miss him. But he left me and so many others such wonderful memories. For that I am thankful.”*

**Bruce Fichandler** – *“I have had the honor and privilege of knowing and working with Jeff from the very beginning of our careers, having met him days after each of us graduated from PA school in 1973. We were the first two PAs at Yale University in the Department of Surgery, working on the Burn Service and in the Emergency room. It would be a working relationship that would last for the next 25 years, a professional relationship that would last until we both retired and a personal relationship that ends only now. Jeff was the key to our success as newly minted PAs in a medical world that knew little about us. It would be all the aspects of his character that would carry us through those*

*(Remembering Jeff Heinrich, continued on page 3)*



*(Remembering Jeff Heinrich, continued from page 2)*

*formative years and throughout our professional lives; his compassion, intelligence, perseverance, imagination and a sense of humor combined with a laugh that still echoes in the halls of Yale and Yale-New Haven Hospital as well as everywhere he went. A friend to patients, nurses, PA students, staff, his colleagues and especially me, his contributions to the growth of our profession cannot be overstated. Few have, or will do, as much as he did for all of us."*

Please read more about Mr. Heinrich and his contributions to the PA profession from his [biography here](#).

You can also listen to an audio recording featuring a conversation with PAHx co-founders Jeff Heinrich and Reginald Carter [here](#).

Please [share your memories](#) of Jeff with the Society via the PAHx [Facebook](#) or [Email](#) and we will forward them to the Heinrich family.

Contributions can be made in Jeff's honor or memory to the [PA History Society](#) or the [Connecticut PA Academy Foundation](#).



## Little Known Facts about Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.

*Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA*

It is always exciting when the Society comes across new items that shed light on Dr. Stead's professional and personal life. Here are a few new facts about Dr. Stead that were found recently in a set of scrapbooks donated to the Society by the Stead family.

### *Lt. Col. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.*

Dr. Stead did not get to serve as an active-duty military physician during the Second World War. The government needed him to remain at Emory University to fast-track the education of physicians

for military service. Dr. Stead had few faculty and house staff left to teach medical students and take care of patients at Grady Hospital. His solution was to have students learn in the classroom in the morning and attend clinical rounds and take care of patients in the afternoons and evenings. It was this experience that gave him the confidence in 1965 to launch his 24-month curriculum at Duke University to educate physician assistants. He knew that he could educate highly motivated students in two years to do many of the tasks performed by physicians.

According to a newspaper clipping and a photograph found in a family scrapbook, Dr. Stead eventually got his chance to serve in the U.S. Army. He enlisted as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves when the 65<sup>th</sup> General Hospital Unit was reactivated at Duke University in 1947. The unit, staffed primarily by Duke nurses, physicians and clinical support personnel, had served in England during the World War II. It was disbanded at the end of the war but reactivated several years later to provide backup support for the Fort Bragg Military Base, NC. The newspaper clipping indicated that the unit had left Duke for two weeks active duty at Fort Bragg on July 27, 1952. The unit included 39 individuals. The above photograph is dated July 1952 when the unit was on maneuvers at Fort Bragg. Dr. Stead served in the Army Reserves between World War II and the Korean War.



*(Dr. Eugene A. Stead, continued on page 9)*

### *PA History Society*

**Mission:** To share the history of the development of the PA profession and illustrate how PAs continue to make a difference in our society.

**Vision:** The PA History Society brings PA history to life by inspiring the next generation of PAs, patients and policymakers.

## “Thank you” PAs and Healthcare Providers!

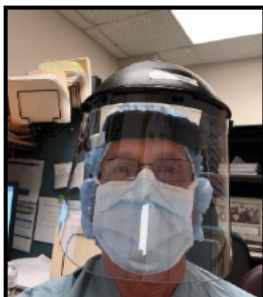


The PA History Society is **documenting the stories and photographs** from PAs, PA students and faculty during this global pandemic to preserve these unprecedented times in the history of the profession.

The Society also plans to honor those PAs who have fallen to the virus by creating a **“In Memoriam” webpage**.

Please email your stories, photographs, and the names of any PAs you know who have passed due to COVID-19 to the Society at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)

No matter where you are or what you are doing in this fight, the **PA History Society thanks you** for your dedication to continuing to provide quality health care and for your loyal service to your patients.



PAHx Board Treasurer and Cardiovascular Surgeon PA, Steve Wilson.



NCCPA CEO spoke about PAs fighting the pandemic on MSNBC, April 1, 2020



Maryann Ramos, PAHx Board Past President and volunteer case manager for the Greenwich Dept. of Health Medical Reserve Corps, waiting for an ambulance.

## Then and Now – Pandemics

*Marilyn Fitzgerald, Honorary PA*

In its 53-year history, the PA profession has experienced and provided healthcare during multiple “epidemics” (Hepatitis C, HIV/Aids, SARS, MERS, Zika, Ebola), but only three “pandemics.” The World Health Organization defines pandemic as “an epidemic occurring worldwide or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people.”<sup>1</sup>

In September 1968, an influenza virus H3N2 (Hong Kong flu) triggered a pandemic resulting in approximately 100,000 deaths in the USA and 1,000,000 deaths worldwide (0.03% of the world’s population).<sup>2</sup> Most of the deaths were patients 65 years and older. The PA profession had just graduated its first three PAs the previous year. Among them was [Ken Ferrell](#), PA, 1967 graduate of Duke University PA program. He explained, “In 1968, I was working as a PA with a pulmonologist, but do not have any dramatic recollections of that pandemic. ... I don’t remember any cancellations or closings like we are experiencing now. People were not as consumed by the 1968 pandemic as they are today with COVID-19. All loss of life is tragic, but loss of livelihood is tragic also.”

In April 2009, a new H1N1 virus (swine flu) was identified in the US. In June, the World Health Organization officially declared the H1N1 outbreak a pandemic. Physicians used point of care rapid immunoassay tests to provide influenza test results within 15 minutes. The Centers for Disease Control began a [complex and multi-faceted response to the H1N1 pandemic](#)<sup>3</sup> which lasted more than a year. The response included the CDC’s oversight in developing a virus to be used to manufacture vaccines to protect against the virus. In October 2009, the first doses of the H1N1 pandemic vaccine were administered. Between April 2009 and April 2010, CDC reported that there were 12,469 deaths in the USA and 151,700 – 575,400 deaths worldwide (0.001% of the world’s population).<sup>4</sup> Unlike the H3N2 and COVID-19 pandemics, 80% of the H1N1 deaths occurred in

*(Then and Now - Pandemics, continued on page 5)*



*(Then and Now - Pandemics, continued from page 4)*

people younger than 65 years old. PAs (70,000 certified PAs in 2009) were involved in providing healthcare to infected people. [William Stanhope](#), PA, who in the mid-2000s had developed and conducted pandemic preparedness drills and taught classes in the History of Epidemics and Disasters, Public Health and Medical Intelligence, explained, “I very much remember the fears surrounding the Swine Flu and watching with interest as the CDC struggled to vaccinate for that pandemic, which never took off. Unfortunately, CDC really took a beating because the world was lucky and dodged a pandemic. In fact ... the CDC [was] discredited for being ‘alarmist,’ a culture of caution developed, which might in a very, very small way be responsible for the mess we have today.”

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named COVID-19 a pandemic: “Deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.”<sup>5</sup> No prior pandemics in the PA profession’s history have caused as much medical, societal, social, and economic havoc in the USA and the world as the COVID-19 pandemic. PAs have been at the front lines in treating COVID-19-infected patients. See pages 4 and 6 for related articles.

The PA profession’s response to COVID-19, led by the American Academy of PAs, reflects the advancement of PA professional practice, technology and social media since the 1968 and 2009 pandemics. The [AAPA website](#) has a detailed COVID-19 resources page, professional guidance in the AAPA Advocacy division’s COVID-19 update, and details on its efforts to lighten the regulatory practice restrictions PAs face.<sup>6</sup>

AAPA and its constituent chapters have called on all state governors and the Department of Veterans Affairs to empower PAs in the COVID-10 fight by removing supervisory or collaborative agreement requirements, which unnecessarily

*(Then and Now - Pandemics, continued from page 6)*

## In Her Own Words: Gaye Breyman, LLD

*Marilyn Fitzgerald, Honorary PA*

Gaye Breyman recently retired after 34 years as Executive Director of the California Academy of PAs. She was the first full-time, in-house executive staff hired by a constituent chapter of the AAPA. She managed every aspect of one of largest state chapters of the PA profession – managing and working on every aspect of association management - governance, leadership development, membership relations, meeting planning, continuing medical education, public and professional relations, publications, government relations and research. In her “spare time,” Gaye earned the esteemed “Certified Association Executive” credential bestowed by the American Society of Association Executives.



Her PAHx biography may be found [here](#). HH has asked Gaye more personal questions. Her answers follow in her own words.

### **1. What do you miss most about not working with the California Academy of PAs every day?**

As I write this, I am home on the fourth week of sheltering in place due to the COVID-19 crisis. Many of us are watching in awe as PAs and all healthcare providers are working on the frontlines to care for patients - to save lives. What I miss most is being there for PAs. Being at the other end of the CAPA phone (or an email) to encourage them. To simply be an ear; to listen and cheer them on. I was able to do that for so many years, in the good times and during challenges. I still connect with many PA friends and have been sending notes and making calls. I miss having the bigger platform that allowed me to communicate and serve in a larger way.

*(In Her Own Words, continued on page 7)*

*(Then and Now - Pandemics, continued from page 4)*

complicate where and how PAs can practice during a disaster or emergency.<sup>7</sup> In addition, AAPA has been successful in convincing The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to [provide regulatory relief](#) and [temporary waivers](#) so PAs may deliver care to COVID-19 patients without unnecessary administrative and regulatory roadblocks.<sup>8</sup>

The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) has also provided PA educational programs, faculty, and students with valuable resources in online education, personal wellness and other COVID-19 related topics. You can access the PAEA COVID-19 related resources here: <https://paeaonline.org/resources/coronavirus-resources/>

As *Historical Happenings* goes to press in mid-May, a majority of states within the USA are still in social distancing lockdown, COVID-19 deaths are occurring daily, and vaccine development efforts are proceeding at full speed. We appreciate the healthcare provision and sacrifices PAs are making during this pandemic.

**References:**

- [1] <http://www9.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/7/11-088815/en/>
- [2] <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1968-pandemic.html>
- [3] <https://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/cdcresponse.htm>
- [4] <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/2009-h1n1-pandemic.html>
- [5] <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-04-2020-who-timeline---COVID-19>
- [6] <https://www.aapa.org/news-central/COVID-19-resource-center/>
- [7] [https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2020/03/aapa-calls-on-governors-to-empower-physician-assistants-in-covid-19-fight/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=aapa\\_post&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus](https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2020/03/aapa-calls-on-governors-to-empower-physician-assistants-in-covid-19-fight/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=aapa_post&utm_campaign=coronavirus)
- [8] <https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2020/04/cms-removes-unnecessary-administrative-and-regulatory-requirements-for-pas-other-health-professionals/>

***“Any disease process always ends up being more complicated than one thinks.”***

Dr. Eugene A. Stead

This is just one quote in the collection of over 340 thoughts and says from Dr. Stead, founder of the PA profession which is featured in the Society’s little blue booklet titled *Just Say for Me* that you can find on the Society’s website here: <https://pahx.org/pa-history-book/>

## Physician Assistants Serving During COVID-19

*Madison Taylor, PA-S, MPH/MMSc Candidate*

In the beginning of 2020, the United States had its first case of the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. The virus spread quickly to all 50 states, and the capacity of America’s healthcare system began to be tested. Physician Assistants became a vital tool to combat the virus. Here are the experiences of two new Georgia PAs, who traveled from Georgia to New York and New Jersey to serve during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Alexis Clayton, PA-C* graduated from South University in 2019. She has practiced in the fields of gynecology and urology for the past year.

### Where are you serving during the COVID-19 pandemic?

I am currently serving at Harlem Hospital in New York City during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What led to your decision to travel across state lines to help with the COVID-19 pandemic?

At the start of the pandemic, due to shelter in place restrictions, many Georgia clinics were slow, with few patients. Elective surgeries were cancelled to prevent the spread of the virus, significantly decreasing the patient load. However, it was clear that it was the opposite scenario in NYC. There were not enough providers to care for the overwhelming number of patients affected by COVID-19. Harlem Hospital had roughly three times as many patients as they normally do. When I found out about the opportunity to deploy to New York, I immediately knew I was in a place in my life that I could help. It was an easy decision for me to make as I believe it is my duty to care for patients.



*(PAs Serving COVID-19, continued on page 8)*



(In Her Own Words, continued from page 5)

**2. Over your 34 years at CAPA, what was is your most memorable historic moment?**

Three decades certainly provide many memorable moments, so it is difficult to select one. The **most** memorable moment must be winning prescriptive privileges for California PAs in 1996. CAPA was 20 years old then and many of those years included working toward prescriptive privileges for California PAs. There were a couple serious attempts over the years. The 1996 win for California PAs was tremendous. For CAPA leaders, the win was a major boost in confidence and spirit.

**3. What advice would you give your younger self?**

Trust that often when a door closes, or an opportunity is lost it is because there is something in store for you that you never knew you needed or wanted.

**4. Please describe your family.**

I am blessed with two adult children, a son and daughter who live nearby. My son is engaged to be married. My daughter and her husband have two kids. I have a special bond with my 7-year-old granddaughter, Sydney. We are all very close. Being a single mom for most of my kids' lives made us very tight. A quick story: The night before my daughter's wedding, 10 years ago she gave me a small, wooden, 3-legged stool. In the note that came with it she wrote that the 3-legged stool is the strongest and that she, her brother and I would always remain the *tenacious triad* we are. We are that and I couldn't be prouder of who my kids are.

**5. How do you describe home?**

I have lived in Orange County, CA since I was in elementary school. In 1996, I bought a townhome and still live there. Everything is quite simple and easy. I was never home much when working for CAPA so my focus was not on household stuff. Now that I am semi-retired, I am looking to accomplish some projects and that will be fun.

**6. What is your favorite song?**

The song "For Good" from my favorite Broadway musical, *Wicked*.

**7. What is your favorite movie?**

*The Bridges of Madison County*. I know it is a bit sad, but such a great love story and the music is spectacular!

**8. Who is your hero?**

Claris Campbell, my son's special education teacher from grades 3 to 6. At the beginning of the third grade she pushed to get him tested for dyslexia. This was decades ago when often one had to fight for testing. When we learned that he was dyslexic, she created educational magic with her unique and individualized teaching style. She changed my son's (and my) life. Ms. Campbell was very special. During the IEP meetings she would often give me a wink or a nod so I would know what to agree to or *not* agree to. Even after my son went off to junior high, high school and college, we always stayed in touch. She was there for every special occasion until she passed away. This was not unique to Josh, she made a difference in the lives of so many kids.

**9. What is a perfect day for you?**

Just being present with my family. During this social distancing I am so missing time with my grandkids. I am endlessly amazed by their joy and their observations of the simplest things. As parents, I think we are so deep in the day-to-day that we may not have time to just be in the moment and enjoy them. Grandparenting is very different and just pure joy.

**10. What are the top two things on your retirement bucket list?**

I will plan a trip to Greece and to Ireland. I have always wanted to visit both. I plan to do a Rhine river cruise as well.

**11. Life lesson – what is the most valuable thing you ever learned and why?**

Never burn a bridge. Especially in the world of public policy and politics. Relationships are everything. One's reputation is their stock in trade. *Say what you mean and mean what you say*. That has served me well personally and professionally.



*(PAs Serving COVID-19, continued from page 6)*

**How did your experience in NYC compare to that in Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

When I was in Georgia at the start of the pandemic, surgeries began to cancel, but clinics were still open, and we were seeing patients. It was slower than usual, but life had not dramatically changed. When I got to NYC, it was extremely clear the effects COVID-19 can have on a community. A normally bustling town was silent with empty streets. The many hospitals throughout NYC were running out of PPE, oxygen and ventilators. There was not enough staff nor resources to support the number of cases in the city. Because of the dense population in NYC, the community was very hard hit in comparison to Atlanta.

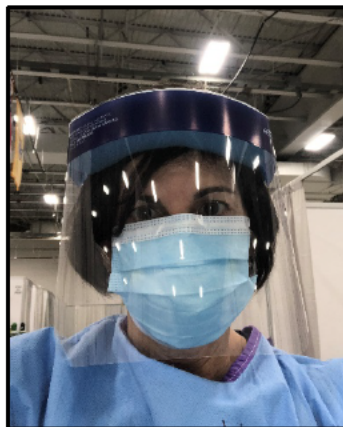
**How do you think this experience shaped your PA career?**

This experience has dramatically impacted not only my career as a PA, but my life overall. Being a fairly new PA, I had to learn critical care and general medicine over the span of a few days. On top of this, we had to learn as a team how to fight a disease we have never seen before. As a provider, I have become more experienced, more adaptable and more compassionate. This journey has reinforced my love for the PA profession. I am thankful I get to practice as a PA every day.

*Arlene Salmon, PA-C* is a practicing emergency medicine PA and an associate professor at Mercer University in the PA program since 2019.

**Where did you serve or where are you serving during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

I served in three different capacities. The first was (and continues to be) as a PA in the ER in Georgia. The second was in New Jersey to work in a COVID step down unit at the Meadowlands Exhibition Center. It was a FEMA "field hospital" where patients were transferred from the hospital to make room for sicker patients. Most had an oxygen requirement of 4-6 liters; our main focus was helping them to progress from this O2 requirement to being able to go "home." We had physical therapists, radiologic



technologists, social workers, nurses, doctors and advance practice providers. It was interesting because many patients did not receive regular medical treatment prior to being diagnosed with COVID PNA, so we were managing these as well (diabetes, hypertension). I don't feel I was on the "front lines" as you saw on the news. Instead, I was in the support role of helping many of those affected, who would not have progressed as quickly without our help. Many were very sick and had every aspect of COVID-19, which helped me learn about the disease. As a result, I will be able to bring back to Georgia what I learned from treating these patients in New York. The last way I am serving is by working at Mercer PA Program to provide the best on-line education for the students who have been working so hard to continue to learn and grow in our program.



**What led to your decision to travel across state lines to help with the COVID-19 pandemic?**

As my dad says, I have always been a "helper." My white coat makes me run toward a problem vs. shy away. I just couldn't sit in the comfort of my living room watching the situation in New York and New Jersey, where they obviously were getting exhausted and needed additional skilled hands and minds. I had the skill set--I needed to use it for good. I think my military background probably contributed to this mindset as well.

**How did your experience in NYC compare to that in Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Until I went to New Jersey, I did not really understand the scope of the disease. It is one thing to read about all of the effects COVID-19 can have on the body; it is another to see it firsthand and see the respiratory distress and toll on the human body it can cause.

**How do you think this experience shaped your PA career?**

Every time we put ourselves into different experiences, we grow and learn. I know that this very short period of time I spent in New Jersey will make me a better provider and more aware of the global pandemic.

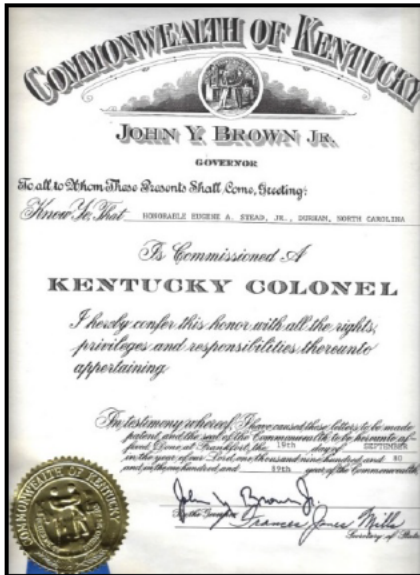




*(Dr. Eugene A. Stead, continued from page 3)*

**Kentucky Colonel Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr.**

Dr. Stead got a promotion in rank when on September 19, 1980 he was commissioned a **Kentucky Colonel** by then Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. In an accompanying letter, Secretary of State, Frances Jones Mills, said that he was sure Dr. Stead



was aware of the proud significance of the certificate shown here. He reminded Stead of the great heritage that he now shared with the great state of Kentucky by becoming “a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.” Who nominated Dr. Stead for this honor is not

mentioned, most likely one of his former house staff.

**Resources:**

- Author Unknown. (1952, July 27). 65<sup>th</sup> Hospital Unit Scheduled for Duty on Ft. Bragg Staff. Durham Herald.
- Frances Jones Mills, letter to Eugene A. Stead, Jr., 2 Oct. 1980. TS.
- Photograph: Dr. Stead in Uniform. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Collection. Physician Assistant History Society, Johns Creek, GA.
- Document: Kentucky Colonel Certificate to Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Collection. Physician Assistant History Society, Johns Creek, GA.

**Stay in Touch with PAHx through Social Media!**

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

**Call for PA History Society  
Trustee Applications**

The PA History Society is accepting applications for the position of PAHx Trustee. This voluntary board position begins January 1, 2021. Having completed two three-year terms, three current trustees (Marilyn Fitzgerald, Maryann Ramos and Robert Wooten) will leave the PAHx Board of Trustees on December 31, 2020. The Society will fill these three positions for a first three-year term (January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2023). A second three-year term (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026) is optional after completing a successful first term.

**Interested candidates should email a Letter of Interest and a CV or resume to:** PAHx Nominating Committee, c/o Lori Konopka-Sauer at [LoriK@nccpa.net](mailto:LoriK@nccpa.net)

**Applications will be accepted through September 14, 2020.** The PAHx Nominating Committee will review all applications and conduct telephone interviews with the finalists by early October. Per the PAHx Bylaws, the NCCPA Board of Directors votes to approve the PAHx Nominating Committee’s recommendation during their annual board meeting in November. Candidates will be notified of the results by December.

PAHx Board members are expected to:

- provide leadership and vision for the organization
- have fiduciary responsibility to the organization
- have a genuine interest in the work and mission of the organization
- have previous experience or expertise with PAs and/or the PA profession



*(Board Member Applications, continued on page 10)*

*(Board Member Applications, continued from page 9)*

The Society’s Board is considered a “working board.” As such, Trustees are asked to contribute content to the PAHx website; write short articles for the quarterly newsletter; participate on 1–2 PAHx committees; participate on occasional committee or board conference calls; and attend and actively participate during the Society’s two face-to-face board meetings. The 2021 meetings will be held April 17-18 at the PAHx office in Johns Creek, GA and in early November (date TBD) at a hotel in Atlanta, GA. There will also be a 2-hour board conference call scheduled for mid-August. The Society pays for hotel and travel expenses.

For additional information, please email [LoriK@nccpa.net](mailto:LoriK@nccpa.net) and your questions and/or applications will be forwarded to the PAHx Nominating Committee.

### What’s in a Name? A Historical Look at the Term “Physician Assistant”

As some of the PA profession’s leaders discuss the idea of changing the PA name, the Society thought it was timely to share a few exhibits from our website that feature the historical use of the term “physician assistant.”

- *Did you know that the term “physician’s assistant” has been used to represent a variety of different types of healthcare providers for over 100 years?*
- *What title did Dr. Stead originally give the first PA program at Duke University?*

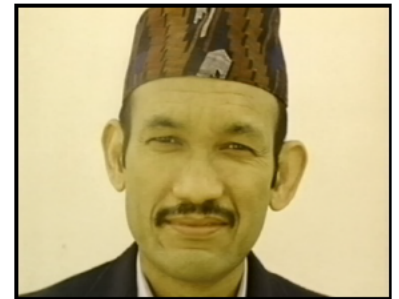
Check out these historical fun-facts regarding the name of PAs in the following exhibits on the PAHx website:

- [Use of the title physician’s assistant prior to 1965](#) by Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA
- [The Vagabond Apostrophe](#) by Thomas E. Piemme, MD and Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD

### Humanitarian in Every Sense of the Word

*Kathy Pedersen, MPAS, PA-C*

Krishna Gurung, a Nepalese US trained PA and jazz musician born in 1947, passed away at his home in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 15, 2020 at the age of 73. He grew up in a hillside village near Pokhara, Nepal. Krishna was born at a Gurka Army Camp in India where his Nepali father was stationed while fighting the Japanese in WWII. Krishna is survived by his wife Mohini, and son Assis, who returned from his studies in the US to care for his father during his last two months. Krishna Gurung, PA, made an invaluable contribution to advancing medicine and PA analogues in Nepal.



Krishna attended MEDEX Northwest PA program. After graduation in 1987, he immediately returned to Nepal. Krishna spent the next 30 years working with impoverished children with disabilities at the Hospital for Rehabilitation of Disabled Children (HRDC) in Banepa, Nepal. HRDC, whose motto is “Enabling Abilities,” fills a gap for comprehensive high-quality services for disabled children in Nepal. Krishna was crucial in advancing hospital and field-based services of HRDC. In 1994, AAPA recognized Krishna with the International Humanitarian of the Year PARagon Award.

Krishna had an amazing life. Well before PA school, Krishna and his band pioneered rock and roll in Nepal. He was known as the “Jimi Hendrix” of Kathmandu, Nepal.



*(Humanitarian, continued on page 11)*



*(Humanitarian, continued from page 10)*

His band played at Nepal’s only five-star hotel, Soaltee. He later played jazz and blues as a hobby.

Born in the hill country, Krishna became a trekking guide and translator in the Himalayas where he guided Robert F. Kennedy, former US attorney general; John H. Glenn, Jr., astronaut; and Joseph I. Lieberman US senator (CT). Krishna later became a white-water rafting guide. As a skilled kayaker, he even starred in a wild kayaking movie. Krishna was a great storyteller, sharing from his broad range of experiences. It was his travels through the rural villages that inspired him to take up medicine. After a three-month EMT course in the US, Krishna was able to help Nepalis in these remote villages.

After completing basic science requirements and a year of clinical experience, Krishna attended the PA Program. He worked at the Vail Mountain Medical Clinic with a Mt Everest expedition team physician, whom he had met in Nepal. This physician observed Krishna’s gentle patience and caring, transforming his perspective on the US pace of life and the beauty in so many things that we take for granted.

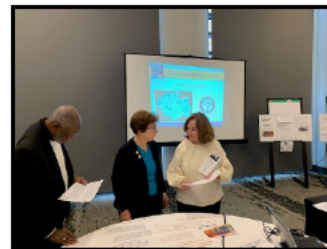


for Krishna. I spent three days with the family preparing for his passing and his open-air cremation at Monkey (Swayambhunath) Temple.” Earle was inspired by Krishna.

Krishna Gurung will be missed. Contributions in his memory may be made online: [http://www.hrdcnepal.org/Contents/Donate\\_Today](http://www.hrdcnepal.org/Contents/Donate_Today)



### Share your Time and Talents with the PAHx



**Help us preserve PA history and apply to the PAHx Board of Trustees. You can find the details on page 9 of this newsletter!**



In 1996, Krishna was diagnosed with bladder cancer. His friend Earle Canfield PA, another AAPA award winner, stated: “Each year I found him worse off than the year before. In March 2020, as soon as I arrived in Nepal, I visited his home. This time he was veritably

in the jaws of death. His boy, Assis, had returned from school to help care

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## The PAHx Archives Needs You: Help us complete our collections

During this time of “sheltering in place,” if you find yourself doing some spring cleaning, please keep the Society’s Archives in mind if you come across any old issues of *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA)*.

The PAHx is looking for the following *JAAPA* issues:

Vol. 9, No. 8 (1996)

Vol. 11, No. 1 (1998)

Vol. 12, Nos. 4 and 9 (1999)

Vol. 13, No. 7 (2000)

Vol. 15, No. 4 (2002)

Vol. 21, No. 4 (2008)

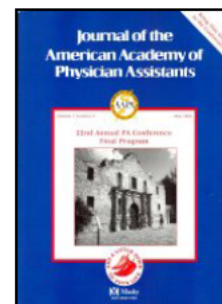
Vol. 22, Nos. 7, 10-12 (2009)

Vol. 24, Nos. 9 and 11 (2011)

Vol. 26, Nos. 3-5, 8, and 11 (2013)

If you have intact, clean copies of these missing editions, please contact the PAHx Archivist at:

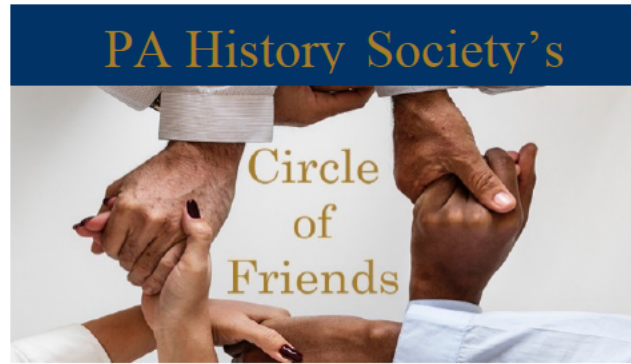
[ContactUs@PAHx.org](mailto:ContactUs@PAHx.org)



You may read all of the editions of *Historical Happenings* on our [website here](#).

Stay up to date on “**all things PA history**” by visiting the PAHx website regularly: [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)





**Join your colleagues and become a  
“Lifetime Friend in the Circle of Friends”**

*Lifetime Circle of Friends:* Ruth Ballweg, Reginald Carter, Marilyn Fitzgerald, Gino Gianola, J. Jeffrey Heinrich, William Marquardt, Maryann Ramos, Alfred M. Sadler, Jr. and Shepard Stone

Help preserve PA history by becoming a *Lifetime Friend* of the Society. “*Lifetime*” *Circle of Friends Giving Levels:* a one-time donation of \$2,000 or more from individuals under the age 65 years, OR a one-time donation of \$1,000 or more from individuals retired or age 65 years and older.

If you’re not in the “Lifetime” category ... don’t worry, you can still support the work of the PAHx and join the “Annual” *Circle of Friends* with a donation of \$100 or more each year.

*2020 Annual Circle of Friends:* Brian & Hilary Burt, Debi Gerbert, Rea Katz and John McElligott



**Honor the PA Profession with a Lasting  
Gift to the PAHx Legacy Circle**

By planning your future gifts now, you are helping to ensure that the history of the PA profession is never forgotten. Legacy gifts – whether large or small – combine to create a vision for the future of the PA History Society, ensuring continued vitality of its mission.

***Types of planned giving:*** Bequest specified in your will or trust; Qualified retirement plan; or Life insurance policy.

All donations to both of these ‘PAHx giving programs assist the PA History Society with:

- ❖ Preserving the Archives collection
- ❖ Developing educational materials (history books, toolkits)
- ❖ Scanning materials for digital use
- ❖ Expanding our biography and oral history collection
- ❖ Providing student scholarships to attend PAHx educational programs (example: PA Historian Boot Camp)



For more information about these programs, please visit our website [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org) or send us an email [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).

**Support PA History by Becoming a PAHx Associate**  
*PA Programs, when planning your budget, please  
 remember to include PAHx!*

With your paid annual PAHx Educational Research Fee, Associates have access to these exclusive benefits:

- online *Educational Toolkit with learning modules and test questions*
- online *Historian Toolkit*
- online *Exhibit Toolkit*
- opportunity for recognition in a monthly feature on the PAHx website *home page*
- PAHx Speakers Bureau
- PAHx digital images free-of-charge
- recognition on the PAHx website *Associates page*
- featured photograph of your first graduating class

Associates also receive a digital seal to proudly display your support of the PA History Society on your program or organization’s website. The PAHx Associate benefits are effective from July 1 – June 30 each year.

PA Program Directors will receive their invoices for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to help with budgeting for the annual PAHx Education Fee for Associates.



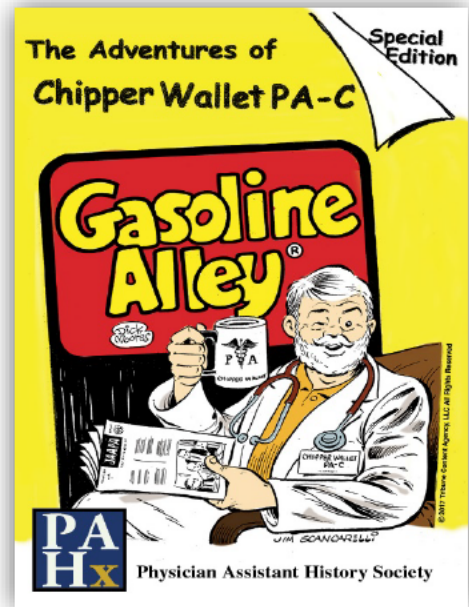
For more information on becoming a PAHx Associate, please visit the Society’s website at <https://pahx.org/how-to-support-us/> or email us at [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).



## The Adventures of Chipper Wallet, PA-C

Chipper Wallet is a character from the nationally syndicated comic strip, *Gasoline Alley*. In 1968, Chipper Wallet joined the Navy, became a hospital corpsman, and was sent to Vietnam. When he came home in the early 1970s, he joined one of the early Physician Assistant programs on the advice of the town doctor. Chipper Wallet is credited for being one of the major influences in pop culture that brought the PA profession to the attention of the public. Chipper Wallet has a fond place in the hearts of many pioneering PAs as his journey to become a PA mirrors their own.

**Comic Books are \$10 each, plus shipping**



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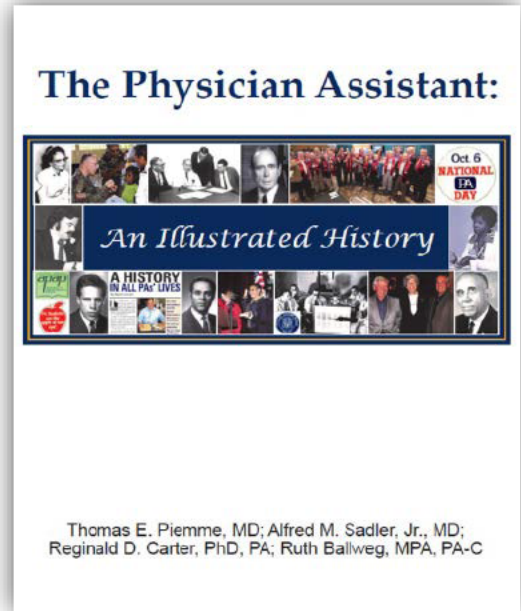
## The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

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) + shipping

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Thomas E. Piemme, MD; Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD;  
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An eBook version of *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History* is available for your Kindle through Amazon.com by [clicking here](#).

Credit Card Payments can be made via PayPal on the PAHx website at: <http://www.pahx.org/pa-history-book>

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