



Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



Message from the President

Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C

Welcome to Fall and the colorful foliage that the cooler temperatures bring across the country! The Society has been busy all summer working on special projects to celebrate the PA profession's 50th Anniversary next year.

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

The five-year banner exhibition designed by the PAHx and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has been completed. The six-banner traveling exhibit, titled *Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care*, describes how the profession developed as a solution to meet the social and health care needs of the mid-20th century and how the profession continues to evolve today.

The banner exhibition will travel to 50 sites across the country over the next five years (2017-2021) and will be available for use at your PA program for a six-



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week period. Each participating program will be responsible for shipping the banners to the next venue.

(President’s Message continued on page 2)



We hope to see you in Minneapolis! Stop by the **PAHx Booth #303** in the Exhibit Hall for your chance to **win an I-Pad mini!!**

Thu. Oct. 13, 2:30pm-7:30pm

Fri. Oct. 14, 7:30am – 11:00am

We look forward to seeing you there.

(President's Message continued from page 1)

An online version of the exhibition is available on the NLM website and offers resources for educators and students, including lesson plans for middle school and high school classrooms, a higher education module for university students, and a selection of related links and suggested readings.

Please visit the [NLM website](#), or contact the PAHx office for more information about hosting the banner exhibition at your institution.

PAHx Email: contactus@pahx.org
 PAHx Ph#: 678-417-8682

You can read more about the Society's other 50th anniversary projects in this edition, which include:

- a Special Edition Comic Book featuring the adventures of Chipper Wallet, PA-C;
- the Veterans Memorial Garden at the Stead Center;
- a 50th anniversary toolkit.

Last month the 2016-2017 invoices for PAHx PA Program Associates were emailed to program directors. As a program director myself, I hope that all of the PA programs and constituent organizations will contribute to the Society's mission, which allows us to preserve the rich history of the PA profession and share it with the next generation of PAs – our students. The Society relies on the support of the programs and constituent organizations to develop special projects each year, just like the traveling banner exhibition.

We appreciate all the work of PAHx staff, Board of Trustees and, most especially, PAs who continue to make our profession something to remember and to celebrate through their dedicated care to patients.

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

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the PA Profession by Honoring Veteran and Uniformed Services PAs

We are less than \$9,000 away from an important fundraising goal. Will you help us reach it?

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

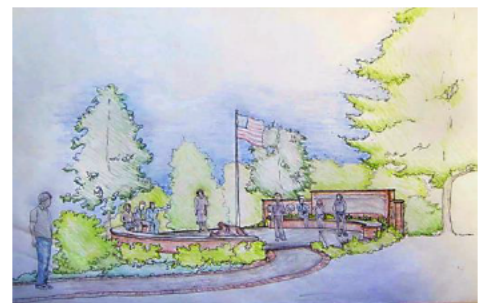
Your tax-deductible donation to PAHx will support the efforts of the PA History Society and North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants to expand and update the PA Veterans Memorial Garden as a "place of remembrance" for veteran and uniformed services PAs. As of September 30, the Society has received over \$63,300 in donations toward our goal of \$72,000 for this project. The professionally landscaped Veterans Memorial Garden, located at the Stead Center, will be dedicated in April 2017.



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

commemorate the contributions of former military corpsmen as pioneers of the PA profession.

Your gift will help us fence in the area, add a walkway and patio surrounding the bronze statue flagpole, and add brick benches and a brick wall of remembrance with bronze plaques representing each branch of the uniformed services.



(Veterans Garden continued on page 3)

(Veterans Garden continued from page 2)

Engraved named pavers and bricks will be embedded in the walkway and surrounding patio to honor veteran PAs and their service to our country.



To order an engraved brick paver, [click here for the Bricks R Us site.](#)

Your **general tax-deductible donation** for the Garden can be made online via [PayPal](#) (*you do not need a PayPal account*) or you can mail a check, made out 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](#) or [Facebook](#) page for the latest updates on the Veterans Garden project and our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support!

The 2017 Celebration Has Begun

For the profession’s 20th anniversary in 1987, the American Academy of Physician Assistants established National PA Day, October 6, in honor of Eugene B. Stead’s birthday and the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class of PAs at Duke

50
YEARS

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University. In the late 2000’s, National PA Week (October 6-12) replaced the one-day celebration. **AAPA launched its 50th Anniversary celebration during this year’s National PA Week.**

Check the following websites to learn how you too can be part of your profession’s historic 50th anniversary celebration.

[AAPA](#)

[PAHx](#)

[PAEA](#)

Witness to History -- Celebrating the PA Profession’s Silver/25th Anniversary

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

As the 2017 milestone celebration of the PA profession’s gold/50th anniversary approaches, it is fascinating to recall the way the profession celebrated its silver/25th anniversary in 1992.

A special 25th anniversary logo was designed by graphic artist, Nate Willis, the son of AAPA Past President Judith B. Willis, MA, PA-C. Lapel pins,



coffee cups, t-shirts, posters, mini-brochures, post-it notes, calendars, pens, buttons, decals, and key rings featuring this logo were best sellers. I still use my cup today.

As director of membership of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, I was responsible for pulling together 25 years of memorabilia and photographs to display on several oversized bulletin boards at the 1992 Nashville, TN, Annual PA Conference.



(Witness to History continued on page 4)

(Witness to History continued from page 3)

That form of display seems so “ancient” today, but it worked in 1992. Attendees flocked to see our historic relics.



The 1992 Annual Conference Special Session and Awards Ceremony featured Eugene B. Stead, MD, the father of the PA profession, who accepted from AAPA President Sherri Stuart a portrait oil painting commissioned by AAPA for the 25th anniversary. In accepting the painting, which still hangs in the AAPA headquarters, Dr. Stead said, “the one group of people that PAs never had any trouble with explaining the fact that they should be there as new professionals were the patients.” He ended his

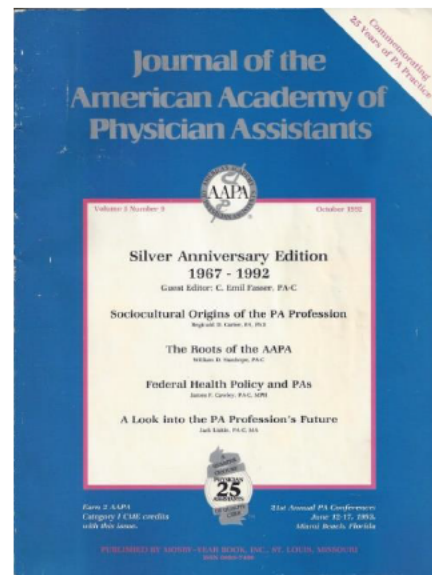


remarks with, “As long as you keep in mind what made you, the world is yours. Take it.”

A silver anniversary commemorative issue edition of the *Journal of AAPA* was published. Guest editor, C. Emil Fasser, PA-C, stated that the publication was designed to provide, “a contextual framework in which to view the accomplishments of the profession.” Articles that focused on the foundations of the profession were contributed by PA profession pioneers including the PAHx’s current historians, Reginald Carter, PA, PhD (“Sociocultural Origins of the PA Profession,”) and Ruth Ballweg (“The Impact of Women on the PA Profession”). A founding father, E. Harvey Estes, Jr., MD contributed “The ‘PA Experiment’ - After 25 Years: What Have We Learned?”

Mr. Fasser ended his editorial saying, “We hope that this issue will serve as a milestone to look back on when the profession celebrates its gold anniversary in the year 2017.”

That time has arrived. Celebrate with us by using modern methods that were not even a glimmer in our 1992 eyes – websites, email, [Facebook®](#), [Twitter®](#), Instagram and other social media outlets – to spread the word about our 50th anniversary, our achievements and the patients we have served.





Coming Soon:

50th Anniversary Toolkit

Earlier this year the Society surveyed PA program directors regarding their plans for the 50th anniversary and how the PAHx could support their celebrations.

Program directors and faculty asked for a...

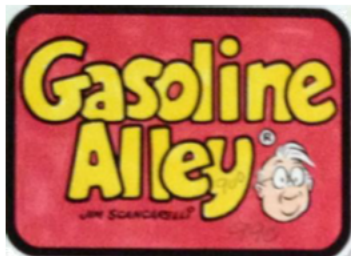
- ❖ PowerPoint Slide Presentation
- ❖ PA Profession Timeline (2 Banner set)
- ❖ 50th Anniversary Poster
- ❖ 50th Anniversary Bookmark for students
- ❖ A Press Release to distribute to university deans, presidents and other faculty

The Toolkit will be available via the PAHx website in early 2017!



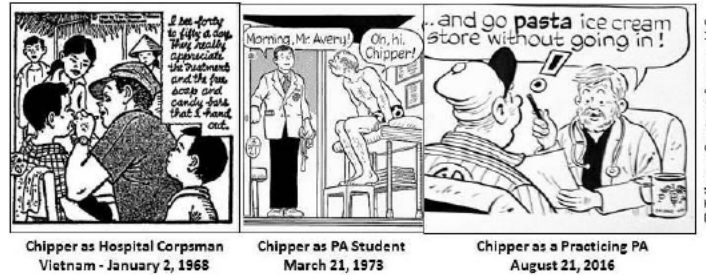
Special Edition Comic Book for 50th Anniversary

Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA



To help celebrate the PA profession's 50th anniversary, the Society has undertaken a new and exciting project to produce a special edition comic

book featuring Chipper Wallet, PA-C of the *Gasoline Alley Comic Strip*© syndicated by the Tribune Content Agency located in Chicago, IL. The comic book will contain over 100 individual comic strips drawn by former cartoonist Dick Moores and current cartoonist Jim Scancarelli. Chipper's story unfolds chronologically over a period of 49 years from 1968 to 2017. The compiled strips will feature Chipper's experiences in the military, his application and acceptance to a PA school, his PA student days, graduation, work as a physician assistant and his recent reappearance in the comic strip to help celebrate the PA profession's 50th anniversary as a pioneering PA (class of '73).



Chipper as Hospital Corpsman Vietnam - January 2, 1968
 Chipper as PA Student March 21, 1978
 Chipper as a Practicing PA August 21, 2016

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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 ensure this intersection of the PA profession and popular culture is not forgotten. The special edition comic book will be showcased at the AAPA Annual Meeting in May 2017.

Track the project via [Facebook®](#) and [Twitter®](#) and check out recent Gasoline Alley comic strips featuring Chipper on [GoComics](#) from July 23, 2016 to October 18, 2016.

PA Program Directors:

Annual Educational Research Fee invoices for PAHx Program Associates were emailed in September. If you have any questions, please contact our office at: 678-417-8286 or by email at contactus@pahx.org

JAAPA and JPAE Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C

The two PA Journals, *JAAPA* and *JPAE*, are taking a major leadership role in the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Now produced by the same publisher, *JAAPA* and *JPAE*—and their editorial boards—have been working together for almost two years to plan and coordinate their content for the year-long event. The PA History Society—including Reggie Carter, Fred Sadler, Lori Konopka-Sauer, Karen Mulitalo and I, have been involved in these talks and working on these projects from the very beginning. I was personally assigned to be the “point person” for the PA History Society in these publication activities.

The Society’s role has included input into specific content, responding to requests for documents and images from our collection, and providing reviews as well as guidance on historic details. In addition, some of us have served as contributors for individual articles. I have joined with *JAAPA* Editor Reamer Bushardt in “curating” the multiple 50th anniversary articles, which will appear in *JAAPA* from October 2016 through October 2017. We have introduced the series through a joint editorial appearing in the recently released October 2016 edition of *JAAPA*.

The collaboration of the two journals has included decisions about content, format and scheduling to match the mission and design of each journal.

JPAE has chosen to collect all of their content in their October 2017, while *JAAPA* will distribute their articles in hard-copy and/or online throughout the 50th anniversary year.

The *JPAE* articles will have a more traditional academic/research format and provide a PA educational point of view. *JAAPA* will publish articles in a variety of formats including first person accounts, commentaries, research articles,

and reviews. *JAAPA*’s content has a broader and less-specific range including policy, and overarching research. This series of articles allows *JAAPA* to experiment with new formats including additional photos and interviews as value-added on-line content.

Both journals see these features as a strategy to look at history broadly as well as to consider the past, the present and the future. We especially hope that the newest generation of PAs will be inspired and captivated by this content.

We have also sought to use this opportunity as a way to bring some new writers into the PA publication world. In some cases, this is in teams of two or more authors. In other cases, this is with a senior author and a more junior author. We’ve also sought to provide staff and editorial board mentoring for new contributors.

The work is not done yet! Some authors are still working on their articles. It’s important to know that all of the 50th anniversary articles are being subjected to the same review process that is consistently applied to all submissions. This means that some articles may go back and forth to the authors several times for edits, modifications and additions. Despite the specific 50th anniversary focus, each journal and their editorial boards feel strongly that every published article must stand up to their scrutiny and high standards.

We believe that overall the *JPAE* and *JAAPA* 50th anniversary articles will have a major positive impact not only on PAs but also on policy makers, regulators, leaders of health care systems, researchers, historians and most of all—those who work with us daily.

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Blast from the Past -- 1992 Headlines in AAPA Newsletter

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

1992 was a banner year for the profession's progress. These are headlines from *AAPA News*, the official newsletter of the American Academy of Physician Assistants from January through December.

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- ✓ At Last! PAs Allowed to Practice in New Jersey
- ✓ Army PAs are now Commissioned Officers
- ✓ Florida, Virginia Latest to Gain Prescriptive Privileges
- ✓ Senate Passes Tax Bill, Mandates PA Insurance
- ✓ Academy Promotes Medicare Legislation
- ✓ Medicare Reform May Be Possible

CERTIFICATION

- ✓ Pathway II Recertification Study to Begin
- ✓ PAs Now Hold Three of Five Top Positions in NCCPA
- ✓ Pathway II Pilot Now Underway

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- ✓ PAC (Political Action Committee) Political Support Important in '92 Election
- ✓ A Summary: Bush/Clinton Health Proposals
- ✓ A "Quarter Century of Quality Care" Celebrated October 6 Nationwide by PAs, Students
- ✓ PA Sought to Represent AAPA on Board for Migrant Health Project
- ✓ UMG (Unlicensed Medical Graduates) Task Force Finalizes Recommendations to Board

PA PRACTICE ISSUES AND REGULATIONS

- ✓ PPC (Professional Practice Council) Meets to Discuss Ethics, Practice Guidelines
- ✓ New Rules to Allow PAs Own DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) Numbers
- ✓ New RBRVS (Resource Based Relative Value Scale) Rules Published
- ✓ PAs to be Able to Request Supervised Laboratory Tests

(Blast from the Past continued on page 8)

(Blast from the Past continued from page 7)

- ✓ PAs Can Perform and Sign Truck Driver Physicals
- ✓ HCFA (Health Care Financing Administration) Oks New PA Exemptions
- ✓ House of Delegates Affirms Patients' Rights
- ✓ MEDEX Founder Urges PAs to "Get Back to Basics"

EDUCATION

- ✓ Education Council to Bring Paper on PA Degrees to HOD (House of Delegates)
- ✓ Number of PA Programs on the Increase
- ✓ APAP (Association of PA Programs) Proposes Reorganization
- ✓ Government Approves Expansion in Level of Program Funding (\$9 Million this Year)
- ✓ APAP Announces Faculty Development Scholarships
- ✓ 2nd Annual Medical Challenge Bowl

**PA History Society
Past President Honored**

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

Marshall B. Ketchum University will award the school's first Honorary Doctor of Science Degree to **Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD**, during the school's first PA program graduation on November 11, 2016. Dr. Sadler will be serving as commencement speaker and meeting with PA students and faculty the day before graduation at their campus in Fullerton, CA.



"I am thrilled to receive this honorary degree from MBK University," said Dr. Sadler. "I always enjoy meeting with new PA programs and speaking with their students and faculty. After-all, the students are the future of our wonderful profession."



Visit our website (www.pahx.org) regularly to see what's "new" in PA History!

You can read all of the PA History Society [Newsletters online](#).

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 *new Blog*

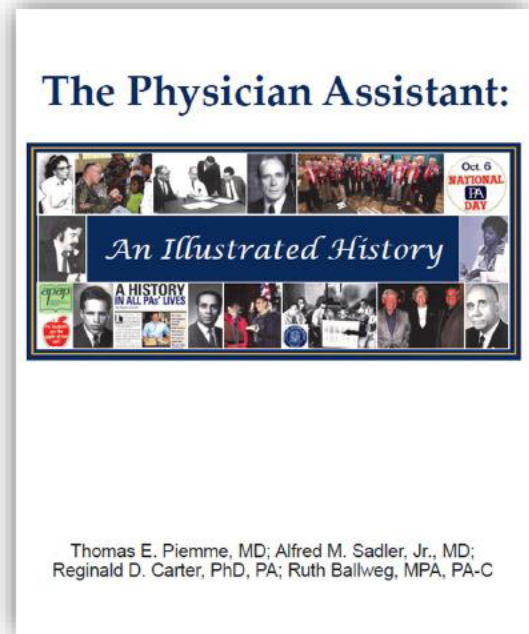


The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

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**



Thomas E. Piemme, MD; Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD;
 Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA; Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C

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*If you are purchasing **multiple books**, please email the office for your shipping total.
 Please do not submit payment until you receive the final invoice with the shipping charges from the PAHx office.*

Payment type: Check Credit Card

Extra Donation to Society: _____

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

Shipping Information

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