

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Ann Harrell
Jennifer Donovan
(214) 648-3404

FORMER UT SOUTHWESTERN FAMILY PRACTICE CHAIRMAN BUILT ONE OF NATION'S TOP TRAINING PROGRAMS

DALLAS — November 10, 1994 — Dr. William F. Ross, clinical professor and former chairman of the Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, died Nov. 5 at Zale Lipshy University Hospital in Dallas. Ross was chairman of the department from 1984 to 1993 after heading the Division of Family Practice from 1977 until 1984.

Ross will be remembered as an advocate for the education of more family practice physicians and for patients everywhere. In 1993 the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System established the Dr. Bill Ross Professorship in Family Practice in his honor. The professorship is part of the Texas Eminent Scholars Program, a UT System matching-income program. Dr. Shelley P. Roaten, current chairman of the department, is the first holder. About the same time, the Dallas Academy of Family Practice started a scholarship in honor of Ross for students interested in family practice.

Under Ross's nine-year department chairmanship, UT Southwestern developed family practice residencies in five locations. The UT Southwestern family practice residency programs have had a major impact on primary care throughout the state, including sending many physicians to underserved rural programs. Through residency programs, UT Southwestern trains more family physicians than

(MORE)

ROSS — 2

any other institution in Texas and is one of the largest networks of family practice residency programs in the nation.

"Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Bill Ross, UT Southwestern developed a strong foundation in the clinical discipline of family practice over the last two decades. The legacy of Dr. Ross and his dedication to his profession and his medical school set an admirable example for his many friends and colleagues," said Dr. William Neaves, dean of UT Southwestern Medical School.

Before beginning his academic career at UT Southwestern, he was in solo practice and then formed a private family practice group as senior partner in San Benito, Texas, near the border with Mexico, where he practiced medicine since 1955. It was not unusual for former patients to drop by his medical-school office when they were in town, even after many years.

Ross was proud of his East Texas roots. He comes from a line of family physicians that reaches back to 1834 in Mount Enterprise, Texas. His great-grand-uncle, great-uncle, father, and late brother Griff, who also was an academic physician, all practiced medicine in the small town.

Ross and his family have spent time whenever they could on their 800-acre family homestead, Sugar Hill Ranch, in Mount Enterprise. He grew hay and pine trees on the land, and before moving to Dallas raised prize-winning Beefmaster cattle at Sugar Hill Ranch.

After graduating from Mt. Enterprise High School in 1942, Ross became an instructor in rockets in the U.S. Naval Air Force. He was discharged as petty officer first class.

He graduated with B.S. and B.A. degrees from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches in 1950 and entered Southwestern Medical School in the fall. Ross

(MORE)

ROSS — 3

was an intern at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas during 1954-55.

Ross has been honored countless times during his medical career. He was elected to a five-year term as director of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) and has served on the board of directors of the Nicholas J. Pisacano, M.D. Memorial Foundation, Inc., which is affiliated with the ABFP. He was a member of the Advisory Committee on Graduate Medical Education of the American Medical Association (AMA) for a number of years and served as chairman of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. In 1981 and 1982 Ross served as president of the Texas Medical Association (TMA). His other TMA positions included chairman of and consultant to the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, consultant to the TMA Council on Legislation, chairman of the Committee on Medical Manpower and member of the editorial board of *Texas Medicine*.

Ross also was an active physician-member of the Texas Hospital Association (THA) and the American Hospital Association. He served as professional services consultant and Texas physician delegate to AHA, was a member of its Task Force on Indigent Health Care and chairman of the Council on Hospital Medical Staffs at different times. He also served on many AHA groups, including the Coordinating Committee of Medical Education.

Ross served for many years as honorary physician for the opening of the state legislature. In 1987 and 1988 he was a member of the Lieutenant Governor's Select Committee on Medicaid and Family Services, and in 1983 he was appointed to a two-year term on the Governor's Task Force on Indigent Health Care. He also was involved in the leadership of the national, state and local groups of the Academy for Family Physicians.

(MORE)

ROSS — 4

Ross was a man with a wide variety of interests and was proud of serving on the Board of Directors for the Texas Forestry Association and as vice chairman of its Non-Industrial Landowners Committee. He had been a member of Beefmaster Breeders Universal since 1973. He received the Golden Pine Cone Order award from the state foresters in 1973 and was their Outstanding Tree Farmer in 1974.

He also will be remembered by countless friends and acquaintances as the doctor who introduced himself with, "Bill Ross is my name; family practice is my game. I take care of moles, colds, sore holes, five kinds of fits, and the blind staggers."

Ross is survived by his wife, E. Jane Ross of Carrollton; sons William G. Ross of Nacogdoches and James S. Ross of Davenport, Iowa; daughters, Stephanie Ross Coker of Garland, Lauren Jane Ross Baldwin of Houston, and Paula Beth Ross Cogell of Denton; grandson, Austin Wayne Cogell; and granddaughters, Shannon Leigh Baldwin and Brenna Victoria Ross.

Services took place Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home in Henderson at 2 p.m. Burial will be in the Ross family cemetery in Mt. Enterprise.

Memorials may be made to the Dr. Bill Ross Professorship in Family Practice at UT Southwestern, to the Bill Ross Scholarship Fund at UT Southwestern, the Ross Scholarship or the Hazel Ross Scholarship at Stephen F. Austin University, or the University of North Texas State Musical Scholarship in Memory of Fred Crane.

###