

DR. ROBERT C. DELLA ROCCA

Dr. Robert C. Della Rocca, Class of 1958, is an internationally respected eye surgeon and teacher and founder of a non-profit medical group delivering eye care to impoverished areas of Central America.

Dr. Della Rocca received his MD from Creighton University and served two years as a Captain in Vietnam, receiving a Bronze Star.

He was a resident and Chief Resident in Ophthalmology at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He received fellowships to study at the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital and the Albany Medical Center. In 1974, he started a private practice in New York.

In 1981, Dr. Della Rocca was one of the youngest doctors ever appointed Surgeon Director and Chief of Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive and Orbital Surgery at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. At present, he is also Chairman of the Medical Board of Directors of the Infirmary.

Through the years Dr. Della Rocca has volunteered his time teaching residents, performing surgery and running a weekly clinic. He has served as a mentor to more than 45 colleagues from 21 countries. He has also received and accepted invitations to lecture and perform surgery in many parts of the world, including Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Mexico, and Venezuela.

In 1993, he founded the international Volunteer Health Program, a non-profit group that organizes trips by volunteer physicians and nurses to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. More than 8000 patients have been seen, nearly 1000 surgeries performed and thousands of eye glasses have been distributed by his organization.

Dr. Della Rocca has received numerous professional awards, including the 2003 Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the 2003 Hobie Award for humanitarian service from the New York State Ophthalmologic Society.