



Larry Heath, M.D.
Class of 2016

Larry Heath graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1964. He was a lifetime member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), and a Bank of America Award winner for “Distinguished Achievement and Promise of Future Success and Service to Society”. As a senior, he was named OHS Man of the Month by the Oroville Junior Chamber of Commerce, was Block O president and senior class president. He was an outstanding all-around athlete, excelling in football, basketball and baseball, receiving All-League honors in each sport, including three years as an All-League catcher. He was the starting catcher on the OHS Varsity baseball team his freshman year.

Larry went to Stanford University on a football scholarship and in his sophomore year transferred his scholarship to baseball. He earned All-League Honorable Mention his freshman year and playing on a PAC 8 championship team his junior year. After graduating with a B.A. degree in biological sciences in 1968, he went to the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Medical School earning his M.D. degree in 1972. He spent part of his fourth year training in London, England at the Royal Free Hospital. For the next five years, he trained at the San Joaquin General Hospital in Stockton and then the UC Davis, Sacramento Medical Center, completing his internship, medical residency and a one year fellowship in infectious diseases and immunology.

Larry’s 36-year medical career began in 1977 as the Director of Emergency Services at the San Joaquin General Hospital. He continued his focus on emergency room work at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Stockton until 1980 when he started his private internal medicine practice in Lodi, California. In Lodi/Stockton, he diagnosed and treated many of the earliest cases of AIDS when the epidemic first appeared in 1980. While in Lodi, he held many positions, including Medical Department Chairman at Lodi Memorial Hospital, President of Lodi IPA Medical Group, Inc. and board member of the Delta Blood Bank. In 1992, he moved his family to Wisconsin where he served as a staff physician in both the Internal Medicine and Urgent Care Departments at the Marshfield Clinic for the next 17 years. In 2008, Larry and his wife moved to Virginia to be closer to their three sons, all living on the East Coast. He worked as an internal medicine and wound healing specialist in Gainesville and Warrenton until his retirement in 2013.

In 2003, Larry created the Marshfield Clinic International Medical Endowment. The endowment funded the care of patients from third world countries who did not have access to advanced medical/surgical technology. The endowment wound down a few years ago when all assets were transferred to Doctors without Borders to help fight the Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa.

Dr. Heath has authored or co-authored five articles and two abstracts in professional publications. He also wrote a two part series for Midwestern newspapers about his experiences in Afghanistan in 1978. He has been a member of the Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society, the American College of Physicians, and Union of Concerned Scientists and Physicians for Social Responsibility. He was inducted into the Northern California Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Larry’s community service activity is extensive and varied. He has coached youth soccer and baseball and was a board member of the Marshfield Youth Hockey Association. He led the fundraising drive to fund a permanent indoor ice hockey rink in Marshfield and served as the attending physician for youth hockey games dealing with on ice injuries. He has served as Town Board Supervisor for the McMillan Township, WI. As a supervisor for the McMillan Park Committee, he supervised the fundraising, planning and construction of a nine acre multi-facility park. He also was one of the creators of the township’s Smart Growth Plan. In Marshfield, he spoke often to various groups, such as the Rotary Club, promoting the Marshfield Clinic’s International Medical

Endowment. For 40 years, Larry served as a volunteer physician at free/migrant clinics in San Joaquin County, CA, Waushara County, WI, and Fauquier County, VA. In 1978 he served as a volunteer physician for Care-Medico in Kabul, Afghanistan, providing care and teaching residents at the Jamhuriat Hospital, as well as giving lectures at the University of Kabul.

Larry paid high tribute to his OUHSD Hall of Fame coach John Johnson, **“Johnny Johnson was like a second father to me. I thought the world of him.”** Larry played for some coaching legends at Stanford, including Dick Vermeil, John Ralston, and Bill Walsh.

Larry and Jeanette, married for 37 years, make their home in Lake Ridge, Virginia.