



# In Memoriam:

**David B. Stevens, M.D.**  
July 11, 1929 – February 6, 2017

David B. Stevens, M.D., a 1955 graduate of Northwestern University Medical School, served his internship and residency at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. After completing his residency in 1960, Dr. Stevens joined the private practice of orthopaedics with William K. Massie, M.D. With Dr. Massie's death, Dr. Stevens continued the practice as a solo practitioner. From 1977 to 1980, he was associated with Drs. G. J. Sweeney and LeRoy Shouse, and in 1980 he became a full-time faculty member of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and chief of staff at Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children.

Dr. Stevens served in many capacities in the Lexington Medical Society (previously known as Fayette County Medical Society). He served as president in 1968 when the Medical Society created the Central Kentucky Blood Center (now known as the Kentucky Blood Center). Dr. Stevens was the first blood donor at CKBC, and also the first blood donor at the current facility.

His vitae was several pages of awards, honors and accomplishments from the many organizations he belonged to, including serving as delegate to the American Medical Association from 1971-1983 after 6 years as an alternate delegate. He also served the Kentucky Medical Association in various roles, including as a member of the Board of Trustees.

A politically active physician, Dave Stevens served his party in many ways. From 1965-67 he was a member of the Republican State Central Committee. In 1968, he was president of the Fayette County Young Republican Club and served as chairman of Kentucky Physicians Committee to Reelect the President in 1972. He served as a member of the Fayette County Republican Executive Committee for many years.

For many years, Dr. Stevens served as "key man" for U.S. congressional and Kentucky legislative members. His ability to persuade politicians see to medicine's point of view is legendary, and all Kentuckians can appreciate the work he did on their behalf.

His political talents and expertise were used widely within organized medicine while he served on many committees of his local, state, national and specialty organizations. He was chair of the Fayette County Medical Society's Legislative Committee from 1962-65 and again from 1985-90. He served on KMA's Committee on National Legislative Activities from 1963-92 and the Council on Legislative Activities from 1962-96. Dr. Stevens was first elected to the KEMPAC (now KPPAC) Board of Directors in 1963 where he served until 1967. Reelected to KEMPAC's Board in 1985, he served as vice chair from 1986-88 and as chair from 1989-91.

In addition to his political efforts, he served the community through the Lexington Rotary Club where he was a member for approximately 50 years, Opportunity Workshop of Lexington, the Airport Board, the Kentucky State Board of Health, the Ohio Valley Regional Medical Program, Kentucky Peer Review Organization, Kentucky's Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs and the Central Kentucky Blood Center. (These are just a representative sample of the many organizations to which he gave his time). From 1971-72 he was a member of the Lexington-Fayette County Merger Commission. The work of this commission led to the city-county merger which has served as a model for other communities across the country. He was a director of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce from 1972-75 and again from 1979-82.

In December 2008 he stepped down as a member of the LFUCG Council where he had served since 1993. During his service on the council, Dr. Stevens led the initiative to pass a local ordinance banning smoking in public places in Lexington. Today, Lexington is smoke-free and serves as an example for the rest of Kentucky and the U.S. For those efforts, he was recognized by the Lexington Medical Society and the Kentucky Medical Association.

After his retirement from the practice of medicine and from the Urban County Council, Dave Stevens continued his public service at a hectic pace. He was chief of staff emeritus of Shriner's Hospital, president of the Bluegrass Council of the Boy Scouts of America, board chair of Kentucky Blood Center, a member of the Personnel Board of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a member of the steering committee of the Center for Community Legacy Initiatives, a member of the Friedell Committee for Health System Transformation and a member of the Lexington HEALS Institute, to name a few. He was also involved in the fund-raising for the children's garden at the Arboretum, and he volunteered his time to assist teaching first-year medical students in the anatomy lab and covering orthopaedic clinics in the VA Hospital.

He was recipient of many awards including the first Health Hero of the Year of the Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Citizen of the Year by the Kentucky Blood Center, the Community Service Award of the Kentucky Medical Association, Lexington Fayette County Health Department Health Hero, Silver Beaver Award from the Bluegrass Council of Boy Scouts of America, the Honorary Alumnus Award of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and Action Rotarian for his efforts to raise over \$50,000 from the Rotary Club of Lexington for Rotary's international project aimed at eradicating polio worldwide. Two scholarships are named for him, one being for a first-year medical student and one for advanced medical students.

In his spare time, Dave Stevens was an avid golfer, a pilot and a sailor. With his wife Sally by his side he logged thousands of miles in his Cessna and spent many wonderful days sailing on Lake Charlevoix where he vacationed every July. He was a warm and caring man who had a very dry wit which could be intimidating to those who didn't get it!

In 1971 when a young woman named Carolyn (Larson) Kurz was hired by the Medical Society, Dave and Sally were among the first to support and mentor her. Whether working together at AMA meetings or on state and local projects, they were there to advise and help her succeed.

Left behind to mourn his passing are his son Dr. Scott Stevens and his wife Dr. Julia Stevens, daughter Patty Stevens Ardery and her husband Sam Ardery, other extended family members, his Lexington Medical Society colleagues and the many who considered him a friend.

A true loss for all, Dave Stevens left his indelible imprint on our community.

Submitted by Carolyn Kurz, CAE (Ret.)  
LMS Executive Vice President/CEO, 1971-2013  
LMS Honorary Member