

A Day to Honor Our Doctors

A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated Doctor's Day and although this article is a little late, I do want to take the time to thank our doctors – newcomer and veteran, primary care and specialist -- for their unwavering care to the thousands of lives we at Woodland Heights Medical Center touch each year.

Health care is always changing, brought on by scientific breakthroughs, technological advancements, government regulation and reform. But there is one constant: physicians still shoulder the ultimate responsibility for a patient's care whether it be in the emergency room, on the operating table or in a clinic. From the days of Hippocrates, doctors held the fate of their fellow human beings in their hands – and certainly in their hearts.

We celebrate and honor their commitment to their field, their patients and their community. Be it a primary care doctor fresh out of residency, or a veteran surgeon who continues to hone skills by adopting the latest technology, we thank you.

It is so easy to marvel at the almost miraculous life-saving tools that medicine employs. And just as easy to become frustrated with medicine when chronic disease, terminal illness and horrific accidents win the battle over the doctor's most drastic life-saving measures.

It is too easy to forget that the physician is a human. The same doctor who was triumphant in making a diagnosis in a perplexing case has to deliver the grim prognosis to the patient and his family.

The pediatrician who is treating a severely injured or ill child has to go home to tuck in her own little ones.

The longtime family doctor who has watched a patient evolve from a vibrant and active lifestyle to an aging, weakened state may be facing the same dilemma with his own elderly parent.

We acknowledge their lives outside the hospital though we realize that their chosen career path often makes it difficult to separate the two worlds. We appreciate the obstetrician who ventures out in the middle of the night to bring a new life into this world. We thank the emergency room physicians and hospitalists for the personal sacrifices they make by staffing our facilities on weekends and holidays. We are grateful to those doctors who answer emergency calls from our hospital staffs and patients while out for dinner with their spouses or during a child's birthday party.

The physicians who serve our hospital and clinics all have their own stories to tell, tales of heroic measures inside our walls and in their community. They are all part of the Woodland Heights family of physicians who work with us and the other members of our health care team of professionals to provide our region with outstanding medical care.

We are fortunate to have these men and women and I acknowledge their contributions, sacrifices, skills and unwavering concern for our community.

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