

NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JAMES C. CRUTCHER OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA IS NEW VA CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Administrator Cleland announced the appointment of Dr. James C. Crutcher, 53, as the VA's Chief Medical Director. He described the new CMD as "a combat veteran and an eminent physician who will provide the kind of forceful, dynamic leadership required for the VA program to provide a quality of medical care second to none."

In his response, the long-time VA career physician said: "The DM&S has made tremendous progress in continually improving the quality of care, the clinical areas for teaching, and the resources for creative research. Upon these well deserved areas of demonstrated success, I wish to intertwine a commitment to maintaining the individual integrity, sensitivity, and respect for each patient we serve."

An American Board certified specialist in Internal Medicine, Dr. Crutcher first joined the VA as a resident in internal medicine at Atlanta VA Hospital in 1952. He later served at that hospital for 20 years as chief of the Medical Service. In his 26-year career at the Atlanta hospital he has also served as admission officer, associate chief of staff for research and development, and associate chief of staff for medical education.

Since 1954 Dr. Crutcher has also been on the faculty of Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, and presently is a professor of medicine as well as a professor of allied health sciences at the university.

Dr. Crutcher was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Duke University where he also received the M.D. Degree and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha honorary medical society.

The new CMD enlisted as a Navy apprentice seaman in World War II, and became a pharmacist's mate. Returning to active duty in 1949, he served in the Army Medical Corps as a battlefield surgeon in Korea. Discharged as a captain, he is presently a brigadier general in the Army Reserve Medical Corps and is chairman of the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Advisory Committee Council.

Dr. Crutcher has served in several national capacities with the VA. He has been president of the Association of VA Chiefs of Medicine, chairman of the VA Medical Field Advisory Group, a member of the VA's national Task Force for Ambulatory Care, and chairman of the

VA's Cooperative Studies of Sarcoidosis.

Dr. Crutcher's medical school students at Emory have selected him as "Best Clinical Professor" and have twice chosen him as their commencement speaker.

**DONALD L. CUSTIS, M.D., APPOINTED VA DEPUTY CHIEF
MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

Dr. Donald L. Custis, the VA's Deputy Assistant Chief Medical Director for Academic Affairs and formerly Surgeon General of the Navy, has been named Deputy Chief Medical Director.

Associated with Dr. James C. Crutcher, who became Chief Medical Director, Dr. Custis succeeds Dr. Laurance V. Foye, Jr., who transferred to San Francisco VA Medical Center as Director.

Dr. Custis is a graduate of Wabash College and Northwestern University Medical School. He served from 1944 to 1946 as a medical officer on a Navy attack transport. After 10 years in further training and private practice as a surgeon, he returned to the Navy as a staff surgeon at Portsmouth, Va., Naval Hospital.

Dr. Custis recently was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, he has the Legion of Merit with Combat V for his service in Vietnam and numerous other military decorations and honors. He is on the board of trustees of the American Hospital Association and a member of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.

**DR. HAYS APPOINTED ASSISTANT CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Marguerite Hays has been appointed Assistant Chief Medical Director for Research and Development. She had been Director of the Medical Research Service, the largest component, which supports intramural investigators in VA medical centers, including two Nobel laureates. Others are the Rehabilitative Engineering R&D Service, whose activities are described in this Bulletin, and the Health Services R&D Service, which studies means to improve the VA health care system.

Dr. Hays joined VA's Los Angeles Medical Center in 1967, later becoming chief of nuclear medicine at Buffalo VAMC and heading the center's research and education program. She is board-certified in both internal medicine and nuclear medicine.

She describes herself as an "incurable researcher" who has been involved in scientific investigation since her undergraduate days as an astronomy major at Radcliffe. After graduating cum laude from

Radcliffe, she continued her education and research activities at Harvard and UCLA medical schools. She was a postdoctoral fellow with the U.S. Public Health Service, a visiting research scientist at Euratom in Italy, and a faculty member and research endocrinologist at UCLA.

Betty Uzman, M.D., has been appointed as director of VA's Medical Research Service, the position formerly held by Dr. Hays. Dr. Uzman was special assistant to the director of the service.

MAX CLELAND, VA ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INVITED TO ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS

President Carter has invited Max Cleland to attend his bi-weekly Cabinet Meetings.

In the President's letter to Mr. Cleland he stated that "Veterans and their dependents and survivors comprise nearly 50 percent of the population of this country; your programs affect nearly every family in the United States. Your programs range from the largest health care and medical system in the world to a multi-billion dollar compensation and pension program; from G.I. housing and home loans to burial benefits and the National Cemetery System; and from the largest and most successful student assistant program to a multi-billion dollar insurance system."

NEW BOOK DEDICATED TO MAX CLELAND

"Disorders Among Vietnam Veterans," edited by Dr. Charles R. Figley, has been dedicated to Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs of the Veterans Administration.

According to Mr. Cleland, the book will broaden understanding of why the VA and the public must continue to provide support for Vietnam veterans. The publisher, Brunner/Mazel of New York City, describes the 375-page book as "providing the first comprehensive report of the long-term psychological effects of Vietnam on those who fought there and came home."

VA ESTABLISHES THE CLIN E. TEAGUE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS IN REHABILITATION

VA employees, or teams of employees, whose achievements in the rehabilitation of war injured veterans are outstanding, will be eligible for the newly established annual Olin E. Teague Award.

When Administrator Cleland announced the award, he stated that no accomplishment better portrays the distinctiveness of the VA's mission than the rehabilitation of war-injured veterans, and that it was most fitting for the award to bear the name of Representative Teague,

one of the most decorated combat-disabled soldiers of World War II.

Representative Teague has served 31 years on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and for 18 of those years was Committee Chairman.

The new award will recognize annually an accomplishment that involves improvement of the quality of life for the war-injured veteran, or that contributes in an outstanding way to the veteran's rehabilitation. The accomplishment may be based on medical or educational rehabilitation, or both. Medical, social science, vocational counseling, engineering, or basic science full-time personnel are eligible to be nominated through their department, staff office, or field station heads.

Nominations for the first Olin E. Teague Awards are no longer open. Those for the second award should be made, through channels, to the VA Incentive Awards Staff (05A2), before November 1979.

SURVEY OF THE STATUS AND PROSTHETIC NEEDS OF SERVICE CONNECTED AMPUTEES

Mr. Sol Kaminsky, Project Director, Jerome Siller, Ph.D., Consultant, and Patrick Brosnan, Assistant Project Director, of the National Amputation Foundation, 12-45 150th Street, Whitestone, New York 11357, are heading up a nationwide study.

This survey of 1200 service connected amputees is being conducted to establish a basic data base that will provide information on their prosthetic, medical-surgical, employment, and psychosocial characteristics. Veterans of W.W. II, Korea, and Vietnam with all types of amputations will be interviewed by means of an extensive questionnaire. A special feature of the survey is that interviewers will themselves be service-connected amputees who attended a special training seminar in administration of the questionnaire.

Numerous analyses regarding such matters as satisfaction with prosthetic equipment and services, incidence of medical conditions for amputees of different types and ages, vocational and educational status as compared to nonamputees, family and marriage experiences will be reported. Data collection commences January 1979.

J. M. WOOLLY AND R. H. BENNETT AWARDED 1978 MIGEL MEDAL

The 1978 recipients of the Migel Medal, given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions in education, rehabilitation and social welfare of the blind, are James Max Woolly, LL.D., and Robert H. Bennett. Mr. Woolly is superintendent of the Arkansas School for the

the New York Association for the Blind (Lighthouse), New York City, and the National Industries for the Blind, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

The medal, established in 1937 to honor the late M. C. Migel, first president of the American Foundation for the Blind, is given annually by AFB.

Dr. Woolly began his career as a teacher, then principal of the Arkansas School for the Blind: since 1947 he has been the school's superintendent. He was elected to AFB's board of trustees in 1962 and has served on the executive committee, as vice president, since 1967. He also currently chairs the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.

Robert H. Bennett began his career in the field of blindness in 1962 when he retired, after 40 years in sales and advertising, as marketing vice president of General Foods. He was elected to the board of directors of the Lighthouse in 1963 and served as its president from 1972 to 1974. In 1976 Mr. Bennett was the recipient of the National Industries for the Blind Workshop Board Member of the Year Award.

BEDFORD HOSPITAL RENAMED FOR EDITH NORSE ROGERS

After 50 years of service to veterans, Bedford VA Medical Center has been rededicated in honor of the late Congresswoman Edith Norse Rogers, only woman to chair the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Bedford is among the first major Federal facilities named for a woman.

Mrs. Rogers was especially interested in amputees and other seriously disabled veterans. In the period after World War II, she conducted numerous hearings on their problems and stimulated many important pieces of legislation. One, for instance allowed the Administrator to provide prosthetic devices, and training in their use, by any of a variety of means without regard to other provision of law; thus multiple contracts could be negotiated with prosthetics facilities to allow an eligible amputee to choose among many facilities in the three cities nearest to his home, instead of being confined to a single lowest bidder. Another provided an allowance for an automobile, first for those with loss or loss of use of a lower limb and later for other amputees and the blind. Mrs. Rogers pressed for passage of P.L. 729 of the 80th Congress which authorized a permanent research and development program on prosthetic and sensory aids and authorized making the results available so all disabled might benefit; this and subsequent recodifications authorize the present rehabilitative engineering research, development, and education programs and the publication of numerous documents including this Bulletin.

Congresswoman Margaret Heckler, who introduced the bill to honor Mrs. Rogers, was also at the ceremony. According to Congresswoman Heckler, "The dedication of this hospital is a symbol of the

great contribution women are making everywhere in American society.”

Bedford originally accommodated 354 veterans, of whom approximately 90 percent received psychiatric care. Today it has 1,000 beds, and 50 percent of the veterans receive general medical and surgical treatment. Advances in psychiatric care in the last few decades have enabled many more veterans to be treated as outpatients and to return to their homes and families.

EUGENE J. TAYLOR, 1913-1978

Eugene Jackson Taylor, former writer who worked with Howard A. Rusk, M.D., and medical consultant for the New York Times, died December 2, 1978 in Schenectady, New York.

Mr. Taylor was a graduate of Kansas State Teachers College in 1936 and received his master's degree in speech from State University of Iowa in 1939. He held honorary doctorates of law and letters from Chungang University in Korea and Adelphi College, respectively.

Having served on the editorial staffs of the New York Times, 1945-1970 and Medical World News, 1968-1970, Mr. Taylor was also an adjunct professor for the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Medical Center and from 1957 to 1978 he was secretary-treasurer for the World Rehabilitation Fund.

Active in government service, he was a former member of the National Advisory Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation; National Commission on Architectural Barriers; Research Fellowship Committee, Social Rehabilitation Service for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the department's Medical Assistance Advisory Council; National Committee on Manpower Training; Advisory Committee of the New York State Health Planning Commission and the Hospital Review Planning Council for the state.

Mr. Taylor was also a former consultant for Health Resources Advisory Committee, Office of Defense Mobilization and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Social and Rehabilitation Service of DHEW.

His many memberships included the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, National Rehabilitation Association, International Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, American Association for the World Health Organization, International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, American Association for Mental Deficiency, International Society for Occupational Therapy and Committee on the Handicapped, People-to-People Program.

A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, he received the President's Award, the Gold Key, National Rehabilitation Association, American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Citation of Merit from the American Society for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the

Medaille D'Argent de la Ville de Paris, and the U.S. Army Legion of Merit.

With Dr. Rusk, Mr. Taylor wrote "New Hope for the Handicapped," "Living with a Disability," and "Rehabilitative Medicine."

All will miss Jack's warm smile and easy going ways. In Dr. Rusk's words at a memorial service for him, "Disabled people all over the world are walking and working today because he cared and gave his life for their cause. They, as well as we his friends, will always remember his compassion, goodness, and dedication."

Tamara T. Sowell, R.P.T.

BERT R. TITUS, C.P.O., 1924-1978

Bert R. Titus, Director of the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics at Duke University Medical Center, died suddenly at his home in Durham, North Carolina on December 17, 1978 at the age of 54. With his death, we lost an illustrious professional and a beloved friend.



Bert R. Titus, C.P.O., 1924-1978

Bob, as he was known to his friends, was born in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1924 and grew up on farms in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. He attended Mankato State College and later the University of North Carolina. He never really left the farm, however, and almost every year timed his vacation to coincide with the harvest back home.

While in the Army, during World War II, Bob sustained a broken leg that occasioned a long period of light duty. During this time, he was assigned to a hospital brace shop, an activity that started his career.

Bob first came to North Carolina in 1943 as a soldier, being stationed at Camp Butner with the Army's 78th Division. While there, he met and fell in love with Virginia Jones, a Durham girl, whom he subsequently married.

He became associated with the Duke University Brace Shop in 1947 becoming Director in 1948. Over the years, this grew to be the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics, and Bob, always a willing teacher, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Prosthetics and Orthotics.

He was eager to innovate, to try new techniques and ideas, and he responded to challenge like it was fun.

Bob was Certified by the American Board for Certification in both Prosthetics and Orthotics and later served a term as its President. He was active in both the American Orthotic Prosthetic Association and the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists. He organized and chaired several regional meetings. He was a founding Member and President of the North Carolina Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists. A member of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, he was very active on several of its subcommittees and panels. He was a Fellow of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics and at the time of his death, was Treasurer of its United States Committee.

Bob Titus put a high value on family, friends, and church. He was proud of Virginia and their daughter Karen, and was ecstatic about his two grandchildren. He was a Member of the Angier Avenue Baptist Church in Durham which he attended regularly, both Services and Sunday School. He was a deacon, having served as Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Building Fund Chairman, Chairman of the Pastoral Search Committee, and at the time of his death, Assistant Treasurer of the Church. He had been active in the Optimist Club of Durham and was a Mason and a Shriner.

We will miss Bob, as a colleague, a friend, a citizen, and as an intellectual challenger who had a knack of pointing out our mistakes in a quiet but firm way that made us want to say "thank you".

We will continue to say "thank you" for many years.