

Dr. Martha Gets Bronze Key Award

Martha R. Wilson, M.D., Chief, Office of Program Development, Alaska Area Native Health Service, was presented the Bronze Key Award at the noon Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on January 3, 1972.

This is the first time the Alaska Region, National Council on Alcoholism has nominated an Alaskan for this honor. The Bronze Key Award is a National recognition Award granted by the National Council on Alcoholism, Inc. for Affiliate presentation to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of alcoholism.

Dr. Wilson received this award in recognition of her many years of leadership in the community fight against alcoholism. Dr. "Martha", as she is known throughout Alaska, along with a few other community leaders founded the Anchorage Council on Alcoholism in 1962.

She is a Charter Member of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center and of the Cook Inlet Native Association. Dr. "Martha" was a Charter Member and Founder of the Anchorage Inter-Agency Alcoholism Management Group and she has recently been nominated to the Board of Directors of the National Council on Alcoholism, Inc.

Dr. "Martha" is a native of South Carolina. She received her B.S. degree from Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina; and her M.D. from the Medical College of the State of South Carolina at Charleston.

She interned at the Watts Hospital, Durham, North Carolina and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital, Richmond, Virginia.

Prior to her PHS service she served as a staff physician at the Oteen VA Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina in 1955 and 1956.

Her PHS experience began in 1956 at the Tacoma Indian TB Hospital, Tacoma, Washington. In 1959 she accepted an assignment at the PHS Hospital at Mt. Edgecumbe where she served as Chief of Medicine for two years.

She then transferred to the Alaska Native Medical Center in 1961. At ANMC she served at various times as Staff Physician and Chief of Medicine and Anchorage Service Unit Director until August 15, 1971 when she joined the Area Office Staff as Chief, Office of Program Development.

Dr. Martha is the wife of Dr. Joseph F. Wilson, Chief of Surgery at ANMC, and the mother of four children—Joe Jr., age 20; Mary Stuart, age 18; Riley K., age 15 and Frances R. age 15. Their Anchorage home is on Mills Drive.

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