

FROM THE PHYSICIANS OF

The Sullivan County Medical Society

December 19, 2024

Outstanding Physician Award Nomination for: Dr. Donald Ray Lovelace, MD

Dear Nominating Committee,

The Sullivan County Medical Society (SCMS) is honored to recommend Dr. Donald Lovelace for the 2025 Outstanding Physician Award from the Tennessee Medical Association.

Dr. Lovelace is currently the president of SCMS, though it is worth noting that his nomination for this award was put forward by the rest of us on the Board. Despite his initial reluctance, we overruled his protest and are pleased to present this letter highlighting his lifetime of service to patients and colleagues in Northeast Tennessee.

Dr. Lovelace's most significant achievement is his unwavering commitment to providing exceptional patient care. He has offered skilled, evidence-based, and compassionate care to generations of women in our community. When we asked his office staff to contribute comments for this packet, their faces lit up with excitement to share their admiration for Dr. Lovelace. The testimonials we received—featured in the included emails—speak not only to his professionalism but also to his approachable, humble personality. These accolades come from colleagues, nurses, and even front desk staff, emphasizing the positive impact he has on all those he interacts with. Furthermore, feedback from his pediatric colleagues highlights his dedication to newborns, not just mothers, particularly after difficult deliveries.

In addition to his demanding clinical practice, Dr. Lovelace has been deeply involved in the leadership and advancement of local healthcare institutions. He served as president and Chief of Staff at Indian Path Hospital in Kingsport, Tennessee, in 1997. He served as a member of the hospital's Community Board from 1998-2000. In 2008, he received the prestigious *Servant's Heart Award* from Mountain States Health Alliance (now Ballad Health), a 14-hospital system, which was awarded in recognition of excellence in compassionate clinical care—an honor selected by his peers.

Dr. Lovelace's contributions extend beyond his own practice to the broader medical community. He has served as president of the Sullivan County Medical Society since 2023, though he has held various leadership positions within the Society for many years. Despite the challenges faced by many county medical societies—such as low engagement and financial constraints—the Sullivan County Medical Society currently boasts 385 members, including primary care physicians, specialists, hospital-employed physicians, and solo practitioners. Dr. Lovelace has worked tirelessly to encourage participation and energize the membership, fostering a unified community of healthcare providers. At the state level, Dr. Lovelace has been a long-time delegate to the Tennessee Medical Association's House of Delegates. He has worked to advance the interests of physicians in the state by participating in the TMA's Day on the Hill and currently serves on the TMA's Public Health Committee.

Dr. Lovelace's personal story is one of dedication to family, community, and medicine. Raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky, he excelled academically and athletically in high school, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended Western Kentucky University before moving to Louisville for medical school, where he earned both his medical degree and a master's degree in anatomy. He matched into obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Cincinnati, where he met the love of his life, Mary Ann. In 1982, they relocated to Nashville, where Dr. Lovelace practiced medicine and volunteered as an unpaid clinical instructor at Vanderbilt University. He and Mary Ann raised four children during their time in Nashville.

After ten years, they chose to relocate to Kingsport, Tennessee, to be closer to family. Dr. Lovelace spent the next 31 years as a cornerstone of the local medical community, particularly in obstetrics. Over his career, he delivered more than 4,500 babies, including three sets of triplets and many sets of twins. He also continued to teach obstetrics and gynecology residents at East Tennessee State University and medical students at Lincoln Memorial University, all while dedicating time to a medical mission trip to Belize.

Dr. Lovelace's professional journey has not been without personal challenges. In 1999, he was diagnosed with tonsillar cancer, and more recently, he battled melanoma. These experiences have only deepened his commitment to providing patient-centered care and teaching others to do the same.

Although Dr. Lovelace retired from clinical practice on December 31, 2023, he remains actively engaged in our community. He volunteers at Second Harvest Food Bank, which has been particularly busy in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. He also continues his leadership roles in the Sullivan County Medical Society and the Tennessee Medical Association. Additionally, he is pursuing one of his greatest passions—travel—without the constraints of a clinical call schedule.

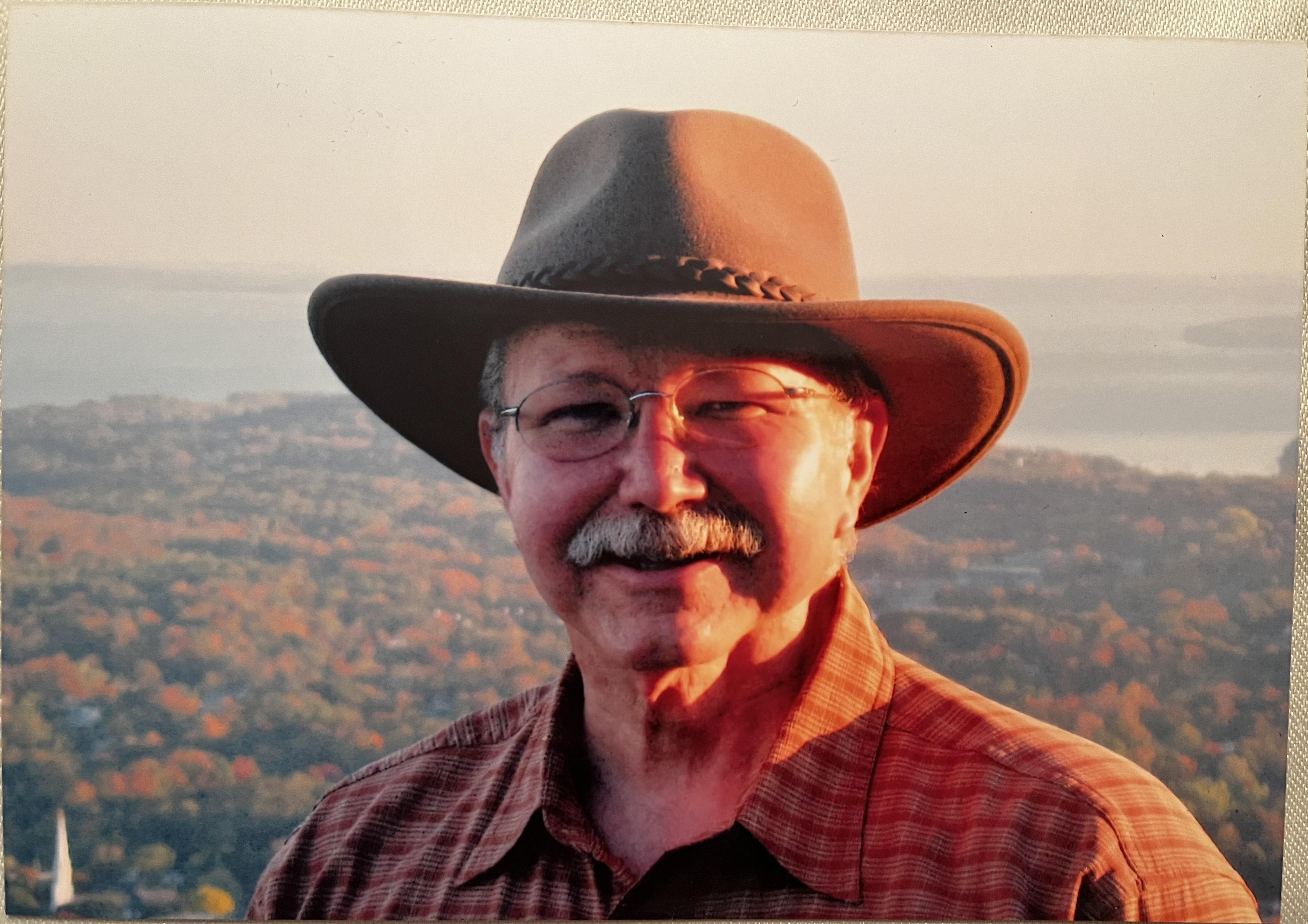
Dr. Lovelace's life and career are marked by his steadfast devotion to medicine, family, and community. We are proud to nominate him for the 2025 Tennessee Medical Association Outstanding Physician Award and appreciate your consideration of this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Joni Sago, MD, SCMS board member

Landon Combs, MD, SCMS Secretary/Treasurer



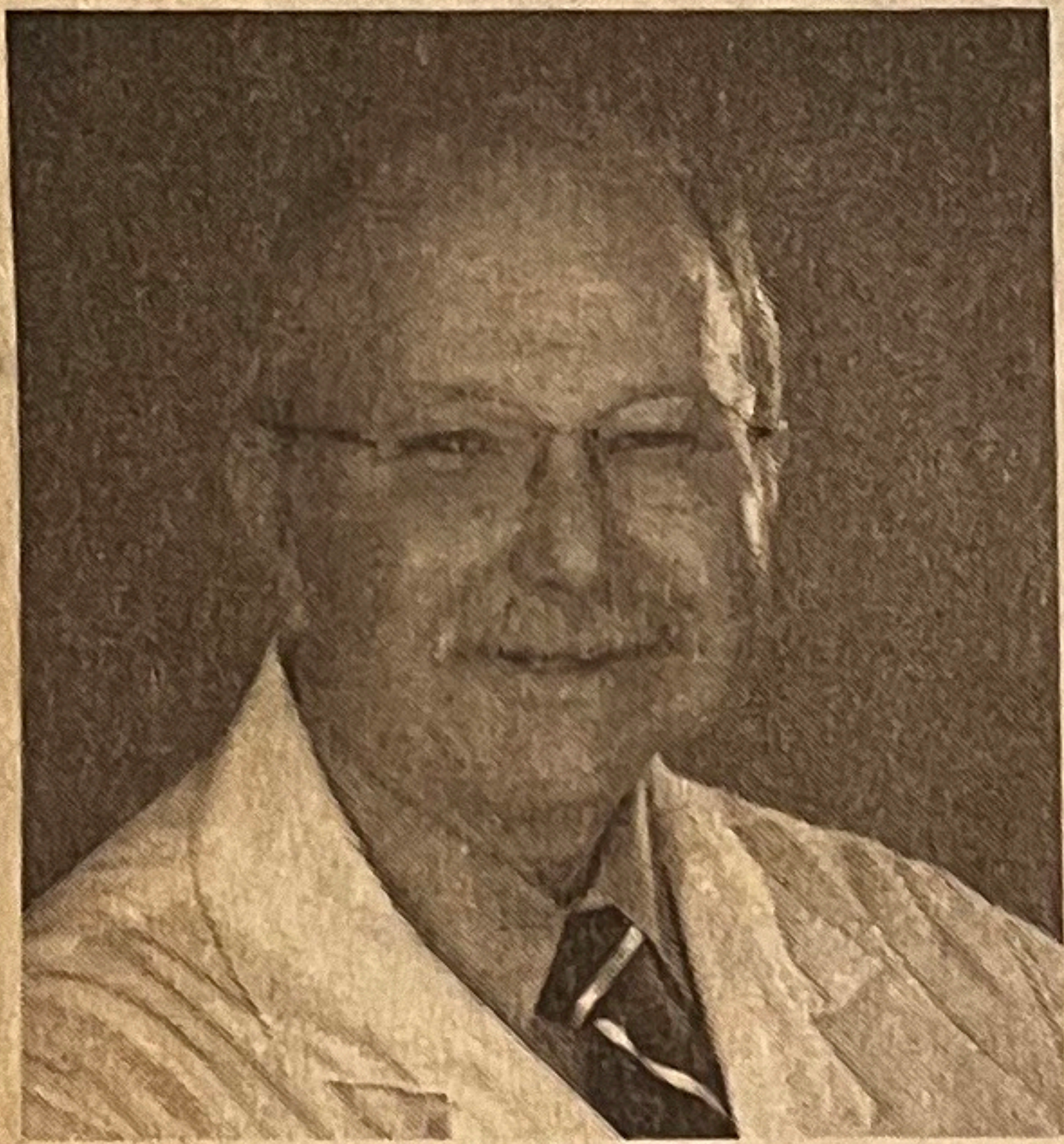


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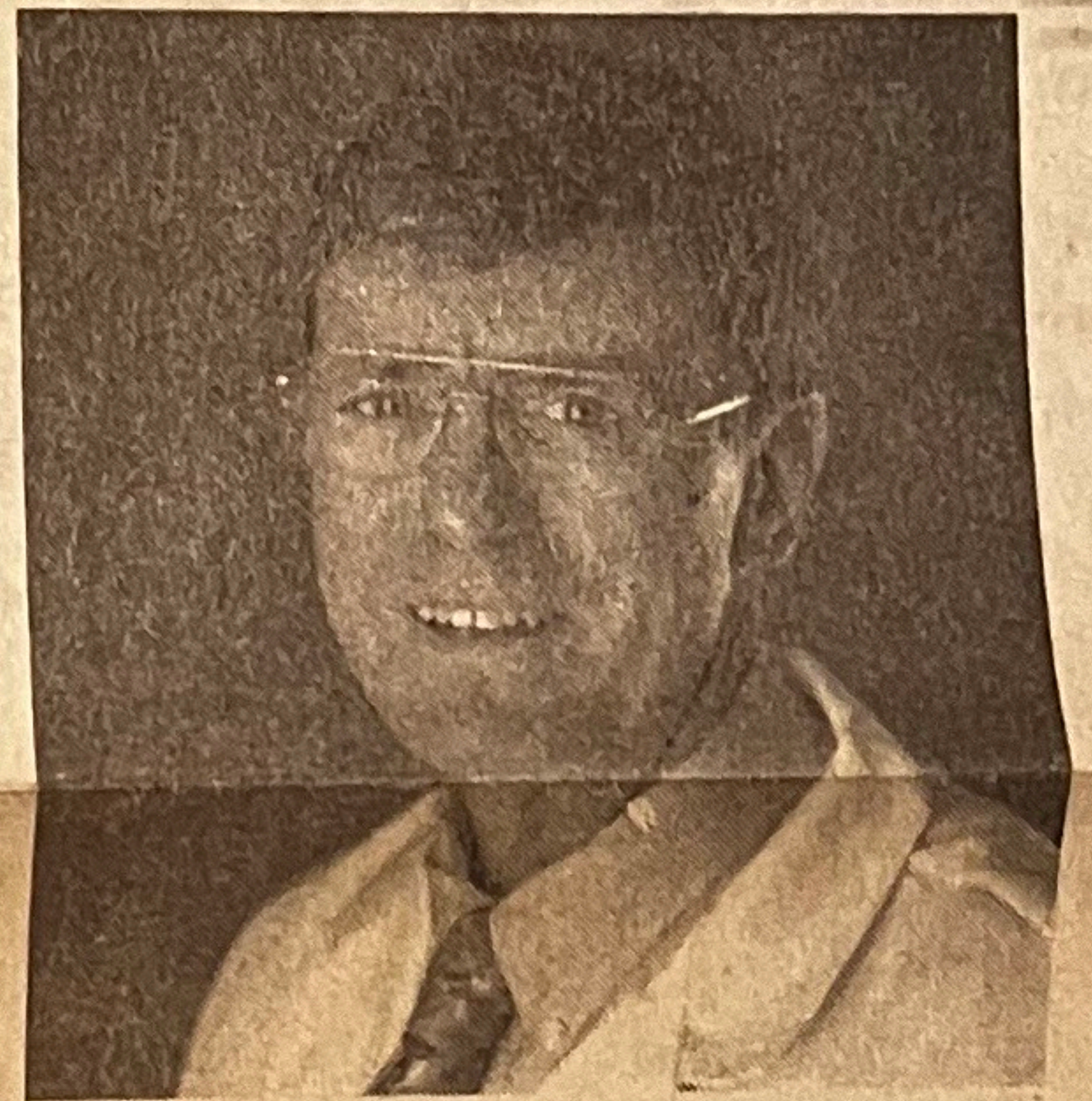
"Thank You"

to all our wonderful physicians on Doctors Day

We would especially like to honor our 2008 recipients of the Servant's Heart Award for Medical Staff Members:



Dr. Donald H. Lovelace, a Kingsport resident, is with Appalachian OB/GYN in Kingsport and is affiliated with Indian Path Medical Center. He has been in practice 26 years.



Dr. Lawrence W. Schmidt, with Gastrointestinal Associates of Northeast Tennessee in Johnson City is affiliated with North Side Hospital and Johnson City Medical Center.



Dr. Carlos A. Floresguerra, surgeon with ETSU Physicians & Associates in Johnson City is associated with Johnson City Medical Center and North Side Hospital.



MOUNTAIN STATES
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The Servant's Heart Award for Medical Staff Members is MSHA's most prestigious award created to honor medical staff members who model the philosophy of Patient-Centered Care. Dennis Vonderfecht, MSHA President and CEO, said, "The physicians who have won this Servant's Heart Award for Medical Staff Members exemplify the gold standard we aspire to each day. Their work within our MSHA family provides an excellent opportunity to recognize their skills, talent, dedication and their practices of Patient-Centered Care."

Donald Ray Lovelace, MD, F.A.C.O.G.

1306 Watauga Street, Kingsport, TN 37660
lovelaceclan@chartertn.net
423-534-0480

Current Job Description:

President, Sullivan County Medical Society

01/2023 to present

Serve as the unpaid head of the Executive committee overseeing the 385 -physician member group. and it's by laws, while providing governance and educational services along with a link to the resources of the Tennessee Medical Association

Notable Professional and Career History

OB/GYN Physician

01/2020 - 12/2022 (retired)

SOFHA OB/GYN Kingsport
2002 Brookside Drive, Suite 300
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-530-7900

OB/GYN Physician

08/1992 - 12/2019

Appalachian OB/GYN Associates and successors
Mountain States Health Alliance and Ballad Health OB/GYN Associates
2002 Brookside Drive, Suite 300
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-230-8200

OB/GYN Physician

07/1982 - 08/1992

Miller Medical Group (dissolved 1993)
Nashville, TN

Volunteer Service and Philanthropy

Tennessee Public Health Committee: Tennessee Medical Association Advocacy
for Patients of TN and their Overall Health

Present

2nd Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee Volunteer

Medical Mission to Belize

Clinical Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Vanderbilt University.

1981-1993

Clinical Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Dept. of Family Medicine at East TN State University

Clinical Preceptor of Osteopathic Students in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Lincoln Memorial University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Organizational Leadership Positions, Awards, and Accomplishments:

Leadership:

Miller Medical Group Board of Directors	1984-1991
President, Chief of Staff at Indian Path Medical Center Indian Path Medical Center Board of Directors	1997
Indian Path Medical Center Community Board	1998-2000
President, Kingsport Independent Practice Association	2000
National Registry of Who's Who	2000

Awards:

Servants Heart Award for Mountain States Medical Alliance 2008

“A prestigious award in a 14-hospital system with the recipient being anonymously nominated by their peers”

Professional Organizations:

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Tennessee Medical Association	1982 - present
Sullivan County Medical Society	1992 – present

Publications:

Lavin, J.P., **Lovelace, D.R.**, Miodovnik, M., Knowles, H.C., Barden, T.P. (1983). Clinical Experience with 107 Diabetic Pregnancies. *American Journal of OBGYN*, 147:(7)742-52.

Lovelace, D.R., Short, B.L., Rink, R.D. (1979). Hepatic Oxygen Supply in Reversible & Irreversible Hemorrhage. *Journal of Surgical Research*, 26:(2)120-8.

Younger, B., **Lovelace, D.R.** (1982). The Laser in Dermatology: What it Can and Cannot Do. *The Female Patient*, 7:(12)32/39.

Education Experience:

Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program 07/1978 - 06/1982
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
3230 Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45267

Dual program in Doctor of Medicine and Master of Science in Anatomy 07/1973 - 06/1978
University of Louisville, School of Medicine
323 E. Chestnut Street
Louisville, KY 40212

Bachelor of Science in Biology 08/1969 - 06/1973
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Boulevard
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Highest Honors 08/1965-05/1969
Bowling Green High School
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Board Certifications:

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology: *Diplomat* 12/1984 - present

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: *Fellow* 3/1986 - present

To TMA selection committee,

Dr. Don Lovelace has a storied career here in Sullivan County and is a true physician's physician. He is a beloved Obstetrician in the community. I had the privilege to work him on the nursery/pediatric side of the house and always appreciated his collegiality with colleagues and staff as well as guidance on possible delivery concerns.

He has been active in the Sullivan County Medical Society for numerous years both as member and leader, most recently serving as President. Don's leadership has kept the society relevant, growing and at the forefront of Medicine. His concerns and insights at the intersection of Physician and Patient issues is second to none. I fully support his nomination for physician of the year.

Best

Stephen Combs, MD, CPHQ, CPE, FACHE, FAAP
President elect, Sullivan County Medical Society and TMA member
Board of Directors, Medical Society of Virginia
CMO Ballad Health Medical Associates

I have worked with Dr. Lovelace for 11 years as LPN . HE IS a great Doctor. HE loved his job and it showed through his great care and compassion he showed his patients and staff. I miss him being here working.

Sharon Barnette, LPN

I met Dr Lovelace the very first time he came to meet Appalachian OB Gyn. I took him to Lunch and explained how much he would love to be with our practice. 5 yrs later I was the WHNP of this practice and he helped me, teach me and worked together for 32 years!! I then became a Midwife and we delivered babies together as well! He loved babies born!!

This man is totally excellent as a surgeon and Dr. for OB /Gyn patients! Respected and loved as a wonderful man, family and office!

He has cried, laughed and hugged with us and patients with his heart too all!

Anyone that had Don Lovelace as a Doctor would always smile to see him again!!

Patti Wilson, nurse midwife

I have known Dr Lovelace as both my neighbor and a colleague. Since he retired I have inherited many of his patients as well. While he is a very kind and thoughtful neighbor, he is a most beloved and caring doctor. His patients rave about him. As a colleague, he has gone out of his way to make me (a new provider in the practice) feel welcome. He is a role model for all he meets!

Kathleen Foster, MD (Ob/Gyn)

Dr. Donald Lovelace Biographical Sketch

Dr. Donald Lovelace grew up in Bowling Green, Kentucky, alongside his sister, Sandra. His parents were Imogene and Haskell Lovelace. He attended Potter-Gray Elementary School and graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1969 with highest honors. He also played football and baseball. The Lovelace family were members of State Street United Methodist Church, where Dr. Lovelace was active in the church's scout troop. He earned his Eagle Scout rank in 1965.

He lived in Bowling Green until moving to Louisville, Kentucky, to pursue his medical education after graduating from Western Kentucky University in 1973. At the University of Louisville Medical School, he was a dual-role student, studying both anatomy and medicine. He lived in Louisville from 1973 to 1978, spending summers as a research scholar in the Anatomy Department. He graduated in 1978 with both an MD and an MS degree in Anatomy.

Dr. Lovelace completed his obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he met his wife of 42 years, Mary Ann. He finished his residency in the summer of 1982 and accepted a position in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Lovelaces lived in Nashville for 10 years, where all four of their children were born: Justin, Carter, and twins Erin and Alyssa. During this time, Dr. Lovelace was admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and obtained Diplomate status with the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was also honored to serve as an unpaid Clinical Instructor in the Ob/Gyn Department at Vanderbilt University from 1983 to 1991, where he taught residents.

In 1992, he moved his practice to Kingsport, Tennessee, for family reasons.

For the next 31 years, Dr. Lovelace practiced in Kingsport until his retirement on December 31, 2023. He practiced for a total of 41 years, 39 of which were dedicated to obstetrics, his true passion. Over the course of his career, he conducted more than 4,500 deliveries, including three sets of triplets and many sets of twins.

Dr. Lovelace served on various boards at Indian Path Hospital and was President of the Medical Staff in 1997. In 2008, he was honored with the Servant's Heart Award for Medical Staff by the Mountain States Hospital Alliance (MSHA), a 14-hospital system. This prestigious award was especially meaningful to him, as it was nominated by a fellow worker, nurse, or physician. His own battle with tonsillar cancer in 1999 taught him the profound importance of patient-centered care.

Dr. Lovelace has always believed in giving back, whether by teaching residents at Vanderbilt or East Tennessee State University (ETSU), or mentoring students at Lincoln Memorial University. As he puts it, "It seems you receive as much, if not more, than you give. My medical mission to Belize comes to mind. Volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank has its rewards as well."

In retirement, he plans to continue volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank and will remain active as the President of the Sullivan County Medical Society.

Dr. Donald Lovelace

Noteworthy Civic and Community Interests

Continuous service in ob/gyn from 1982-2023 in Nashville and Kingsport

Fellow, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Clinical preceptor in ob/gyn Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, East Tennessee School of Medicine and Lincoln Memorial School of Medicine

President of Medical Staff, Indian Path Hospital, 1997

Community Board Member, Indian Path Hospital 1998-2000

National Registry of Who's Who 2000

Servant's Heart Award for Mountain States Medical Alliance (2008)

TMA Public Health Committee (present)

Second Harvest Food Bank Volunteer (present)

President, Sullivan County Medical Society (2023-present)

Medical Mission to Belize