



News Release

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Robert Katz, M.D., Honored for Decades of Volunteer Service

The Dermatology Foundation (DF) Board of Directors recently recognized the profound impact Dr. Robert Katz, M.D. has had on the specialty of dermatology at their recent annual membership meeting. The DF's prestigious Clark W. Finnerud Award was presented to Dr. Katz and recognizes a dermatologist whose volunteer service as a teacher and a practitioner embodies the highest ideals of the specialty, and serves as an example for generations to come.

In presenting the award, Dr. William D. James, Vice Chair of the University of Pennsylvania's department of dermatology and a former Walter Reed colleague of Dr. Katz's, said, "He has reinforced the ideals of our profession to the young men and women in training. Letting them know that private practitioners think and do what is right is a key value he imparts. Dr. Katz is the backbone of ethics, ideals, and values, and we applaud his goodness of spirit and the long-lasting impact he has had on our profession."

Robert Katz began his practice of dermatology as an Army major during the Vietnam War, bringing to it the rigorous attention to evidence-based medicine he had learned from his mentor, Dr. Harvey Blank, during his residency at the University of Miami.

In 1969, Dr. Katz returned to civilian life, opening a private practice in Maryland. But he did not forget the men and women who serve in America's military. That same year he volunteered to teach residents at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, while also serving on the faculty of the Georgetown University School of Medicine. Though he retired from his position at Georgetown in 2002, Dr. Katz continues to teach at the now combined Walter Reed-Bethesda Capital Consortium. And, in addition to his volunteer teaching, Dr. Katz also continues to volunteer his clinical services to a number of local organizations that serve the health needs of the poor.

The Dermatology Foundation was created in 1964 and is the leading private funding source for skin disease research. It provides funding that helps develop and retain tomorrow's teachers and researchers in dermatology and enables advancements in patient care.