NATIONAL DOCTORS’ DAY

The first Doctors’ Day was held on March 30, 1933 in Winder, Georgia. Eudora Almond, wife of Dr. Charles B. Almond, decided to set aside a day to honor physicians. She selected March 30th because it is the anniversary of the first administration of ether anesthesia in surgery by Dr. Crawford W. Long back in 1842.

On March 30, 1958, a Resolution commemorating Doctors' Day was adopted by the U. S. House of Representatives. In 1990, legislation to establish a National Doctor's Day was overwhelmingly approved by the Unites States Senate and the House of Representatives. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the resolution into law designating March 30th as "National Doctor's Day":

Whereas society owes a debt of gratitude to physicians for the contributions of physicians in enlarging the reservoir of scientific knowledge, increasing the number of scientific tools, and expanding the ability of health professionals to use the knowledge and tools effectively in the never-ending fight against disease; and

Whereas society owes a debt of gratitude to physicians for the sympathy and compassion of physicians in ministering to the sick and in alleviating human suffering:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That--

1. March 30th is designated as National Doctors’ Day; and

2. The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

The 1933 observance of Doctors’ Day included the mailing of cards to physicians and their wives, a formal dinner and the placing of flowers on the graves of deceased doctors, including Dr. Crawford W. Long. In more recent years, American communities have found creative ways to commemorate and remember their physicians. The red carnation has become the symbolic flower for Doctors’ Day.

In honor of National Doctors’ Day and in appreciation of our Michigan physicians both past and present, the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance encourages all Michigan county alliances to host a special event commemorating doctors everywhere.