



2018 Trailblazer Award

C. Freeman, M.D.

C. Freeman, MD, MBA, FAPA is the first African-American President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. A Howard University graduate, Dr. Freeman trained in Internal Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Virginia. Obtaining a Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University brought her to Los Angeles

where she began her practice as a Medical Director of a geriatric psychiatry unit for which she would receive national recognition.

Practicing in an array of settings, Dr. Freeman provides clinical services to adolescent, adult and geriatric patients. Her expert opinion is highly sought out by private and public organizations, medical societies, and the judicial system. Dedicated to her profession as a physician, she acknowledges her role as an educator, her responsibility as a mentor, and her duty as a healer to administer culturally competent care.

Her commitment is to creating healthier lives through delivering health care of the highest quality, providing mental health education to the community, actively engaging in organized medicine, seeking to maintain balance between work and life, and working on her golf game.



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Xylina Bean, M.D.

Dr. Xylina Bean is the Chairperson of the Department of Pediatrics and W.K. Kellogg Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. She attended Mount Holyoke College (South Hadley, MA), obtaining a B.A. in Physiology in 1969. She then matriculated through the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine where she gained her doctorate of medicine degree. She entered into residency at Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital in Los Angeles, CA, completing her pediatric residency and a fellowship in Neonatology. She joined the Pediatric faculty at Charles R. Drew University in 1993. She is the proud mother of Raven Bean.

Dr. Bean is a board certified Pediatrician and Neonatologist. Before she became chairperson of Pediatrics at Meharry Medical College, she was Chief of Neonatology and Director of High Risk Children's Medical

Programs at King/Drew Medical Center, Associate Professor at Drew and Clinical Professor at UCLA, also serving on the Board with Drew Child Development Corporation. Dr. Bean is also the Founder and CEO of SHIELDS for Families, a non-profit organization, that is one of the largest public social service agencies in South Los Angeles. SHIELDS for Families has twenty programs serving the community to include perinatal substance abuse, mental health, infant mortality reduction and at-risk youth programs.

Dr. Bean was also co-founder of Wilmington Community Clinic, a FQHC clinic serving the predominantly lower income population in the Southbay. Dr. Bean continues to work with underserved children in Los Angeles by serving on the boards with SHIELDS for Families and Wilmington Community Clinic.

Dr. Bean's community service includes Medical Director of Drew Head Start Program, serving on the Board of Directors for Caring for Babies with AIDS, United Way of Los Angeles AIDS Policy Task Force and County of Los Angeles Task Force on Black Infant Mortality. Dr. Bean is the author of several publications including Meeting the Health Care Needs of Underserved Children, Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved and Circuiting Catecholamines and Adrenoreceptors in Infants of Cocaine-Abusing Mothers, Perinatal Abuse of Licit and Illicit Drugs, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences.

At Meharry, Dr. Bean continues to work to meet the needs of at-risk children. Dr. Bean served or is currently serving as the Principal Investigator for several grants including the following:

Tennessee Department of Health Project Diabetes Children's Healthy Lifestyle Initiative incorporated the 'Healthy People 2010' goals for nutrition and exercise into a model targeting children ages 10-15 who were obese, overweight or at risk for diabetes due to parental obesity or family history of Type 2 Diabetes.

Baptist Healing Trust - DIAMONDZ promoted a healthy lifestyle through nutrition education and physical activity and provided a support system for adolescent females to develop and sustain a healthier lifestyle.

The National Hispanic Medical Association - Meharry Youth Wellness Center project focused on improving access to care for the medically underserved and homeless adolescent population through clinical services and partnership building. The Youth Wellness Center created a medical home for adolescent providing comprehensive healthcare and other services such as counseling and health promotion intervention.

The Faculty Development in Primary Care is a currently ongoing grant to train eight primary care providers in a structured adolescent medicine faculty development program.

Aetna Foundation - Manna! Music! and Me!...Health through Food, Movement, and Community, is currently ongoing with multiple goals including creating a working coalition comprised of the Global Education Center (a grass roots community center serving Nashville's foreign-born, Hispanic, and African-American residents), the Salt Wagon Clinic (a student run free health clinic) and Meharry Pediatric clinic, reducing obesity and other disease risk factors related to nutrition, and training medical and dental students in utilizing food and physical activity as medical intervention and treatment. Throughout the year, Dr. Bean participates in several mission trips, to include work in Haiti, the Philippines, and Uganda with Bridges Global Mission.



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Wilburn P. Drousseau, M.D.

Dr. Wilburn Drousseau is the first born of Dr. Kathleen Jones-King, a past honoree of the Miller Lawrence Society. He completed his secondary schooling at Lynwood Academy, graduating in 1954. He then attended Dartmouth College, where he received an AB in History in 1958. Following in his mother's footsteps, he pursued his calling into medicine at Howard Medical School, receiving his M.D. in 1962. After graduation, he entered an internship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and then completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at White Memorial Medical Center of Loma Linda University. In 1968, he completed a tour of duty as a Lieutenant-Commander in The United States Navy, first at Camp Pendleton United States Marine Corp Base and then at the United States Station Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan.

Following his service in the navy, Dr. Drousseau joined his mother in an Obstetrics and Gynecology practice in the Watts area of Los Angeles. In 1971, he became the Chairman of the first Professional Staff Association of the newly opened King Drew Medical Center of Los Angeles County. This association peaked his interest in teaching and he left private practice to become a full-time faculty member at King Drew. He concurrently completed a Fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at USC Medical Center. Thereafter, he became the chief of the division at King Drew Medical Center. He followed in the post of Residency Director of the Department of OB-GYN and retired in the year 2004 as Vice-Chairman, with the rank of Associate Professor of Drew-UCLA School of Medicine.

Dr. Drousseau has both served in and been a member of numerous professional organizations, including: Los Angeles Obstetrics and Gynecological Association- President; Southern California Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology- Chairman; Pacific Coast Fertility Society; American Society of Reproductive Medicine; Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dartmouth College Alumni Association of Southern California- President; and Dartmouth Alumni Council. In 2012, Dr. Drousseau served as Chief of the Department of OB-GYN at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, California where more than half of his colleagues were his prior residents at King-Drew UCLA Medical Center Department of OB-GYN. Dr. Drousseau has dedicated significant time to service in communities outside of the US, volunteering with the PAPS intervention program, which devotes service aboard working to decrease cervical deaths in Africa and Haiti. Dr. Drousseau also volunteered with the Guyana Medical Mission to provide general gynecological surgical services to women. Most recently, he has undertaken the task of coordinating the OB-GYN teaching programs with Drew University and St. George's Medical School at St. Francis Medical Center.

In 1968, Dr. Drousseau married Lillaurie Drousseau of Paget, Bermuda, BSN Loma Linda University. They have been blessed with three daughters, Laurie Kathleen Drousseau, J.D; Sharon Eileen Drousseau, M.D.; and Rosemary Josephine Drousseau, Psy.D. All three daughters live with their families in Oakland, California. Dr. and Mrs. Drousseau are fortunate to spend significant time visiting Northern California so that they can spend time with their four grandchildren: Josephine and Matyas Kovacs, and Maxwell and Mason English. Throughout his life, Dr. Drousseau has been an avid skier and globetrotter, traveling to many fascinating and far-flung locations. As long as health and vitality hold, Dr. and Mrs. Drousseau will continue to travel extensively around the world and spend time making new memories with their grandchildren.



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Ronald Johnson, D.D.S.

Dr. Ronald Johnson, D.D.S. is a Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston. He earned a dental degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and completed a Forsyth postdoctoral fellowship and earned specialty certification in Pediatric Dentistry at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

In 1973, he became a board certified diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. Among other honors, he was named: Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by Harvard's School of Dental Medicine (1999); Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine (1998); Fellow of the International College of Dentists (1999); Fellow of American College of Dentistry (1984) and Legacy Laureate University of Pittsburgh (October 11, 2012).



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Benjamin F. Monroe, M.D.

Benjamin F. Monroe, M.D., is a Board-Certified Obstetrician Gynecologist with a part time Gynecology practice in Lynwood, California. He is currently Medical Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at John Wesley Health Center, a Federal Qualified Healthcare Center in Los Angeles, California. He is also the Lead Provider at St. John's Well Child & Family Leavey Clinic, Lynwood California.

After graduating as valedictorian of Carver high school in Delray Beach Florida, he attended Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee Alabama where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology. He completed a one year post baccalaureate fellowship at

Pomona College, Claremont, California. He received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee and completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology from Martin Luther King Jr., County Hospital in 1976.

Dr. Monroe opened his private practice July 1, 1976 in Compton, California and practiced in the community of Long Beach, Compton, and Lynwood California for 31 years, where he has delivered thousands of babies and performed countless surgical procedures. He closed his private Obstetrical practice in 2007, to accept a position as Medical Director of Women's Health and the Leavey Prenatal Clinics at St. Francis Medical Center, Lynwood, California. Because of his passion for Patient Safety and Quality of Care and Evidence Based Medicine he has served in numerous leadership positions at St. Francis Medical Center including: Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Chief of Staff and Medical Director of the 24-Hour In House Call Panel for 23 years, a program in which he was instrumental in creating in 1995. This was the first In House OB/GYN Panel in a private community hospital in Los Angeles, California. The program became a prototype of the Laborist Programs as it exists nationwide today. He was consulted by many physicians throughout the State of California regarding as to how the program was established.

Dr. Monroe is an active member of: American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, California Medical Association, American Medical Association, Los Angeles County Medical Association, National Medical Association and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

He serves as an Administrative Board Member of the Bridge of Hope Foundation, "Changing the Community One Heartbeat at a Time." and the Brianna Rose Foundation, that nurtures growth, increase self-esteem, improve decision making, by utilizing faith based therapy for youth and young adults.

His awards and honors are numerous, a few that he cherishes: His Medical Accomplishments is displayed in the Spady Museum, Delray Beach Florida as the first African American Physician born in Delray Beach, Florida. The City of Lynwood, Ross Miller Outstanding Physician Award, St. Francis Medical Center, Physician Vincentian Spirit and the Impact Award from Bridge of Hope Foundation.

Most of all he enjoys spending quality time with his wife, children and grandchildren and being involved in church events. Since he no longer plays golf, he also enjoys attending and watching college and professional sports.



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Michael Norris, M.D.

Dr. Norris graduated MAGNA CUM LAUDE with his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from La Sierra University. College basketball and track and field. President, Mu Beta Kappa Fraternity. He also graduated MAGNA CUM LAUDE Doctor of medicine from Loma Linda University School of Medicine as well as Freshman class president. His postgraduate included internship at Los Angeles Harbor General Hospital, residency in General Surgery and Genitourinary Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and fellowship in Pediatric Urology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr Norris attended Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Chief, Department of surgery, Fifth General US Army Hospital, Stuttgart, Germany. Assistant Chief Urology service, Chief, Pediatric Urology Service, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. Operation Desert Storm, US Army. Retired Colonel, US Army.

Dr Norris's faculty appointments include Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Colorado, School of Health Sciences, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine. He has been Chief Urology Service, Chief Pediatric Urology Service, Chief Department of Surgery, Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff, and Board of Directors in various institutions.

Dr. Norris's professional affiliations are Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Diplomate America Board of Urology, Society of Government Service Urologists, Society of Military Urologists Stationed on Europe, American Fertility society, Rocky Mountain Urological Society, and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In my opinion, a person who becomes recognized as distinguished in their field and a lifetime achiever, did not begin with those goals in mind. Indeed, distinction and achievement gravitate to those individuals who made themselves accountable to the obligations of honesty, integrity, and dedication, infused with a genuine sense of service. The possession of these qualities not only distinguishes an individual but also defends against the ubiquitous pitfalls of greed, avarice, and deception.



2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Silas Thomas, M.D.

Dr. Silas Thomas had always wanted to be a physician, but because of quota systems and other biases against African-American applicants he decided to go into pharmacy school. He graduated from Drake University College of Pharmacy and went on to own several pharmacies in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Thomas has the distinction of being the first African-American to own a Rexall Pharmacy franchise in the United States.

After about a decade of work as a pharmacist, Dr. Thomas had the financial resources to pursue his dream of applying to medical school. He obtained his medical degree from Northwestern University College of Medicine. He completed his residency at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago and was board certified. He also became a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Then a year later Dr. Thomas ventured out to California where he has practiced in Compton for over 36 years. He has delivered more than 20,000 babies and served two generations of mothers. Many of his patients are poor and unable to pay but they receive the same care and attention Dr. Thomas provides to patients who are able to pay.