



American College of Legal Medicine

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Dr. Richard Wilbur: A Centennial Celebration of Inspiration and Legacy

On this momentous day, April 8th, 2024, the American College of Legal Medicine proudly celebrates the extraordinary life and remarkable achievements of Dr. Richard Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM, as he proudly joins the centenarian club. As President of the ACLM, I am honored to lead this recognition of a man whose life's work has left an indelible mark on medicine, law, and our esteemed College.

I recently had the pleasure of chatting with Dr. Wilbur in San Diego during our Annual Conference. Despite inadvertently stirring emotions by mentioning the recent passing of his beloved wife of 72 years, Betty Lou, our conversation was mostly characterized by warmth and camaraderie. At the ripe age of 99, he zips around with the grace of a gazelle (albeit one wielding a cane). Upon expressing my admiration for his extensive experience, he wryly remarked, "Well, if you live long enough, you get to accumulate all these accomplishments."

Dr. Wilbur's professional journey resembles a captivating narrative with twists and turns akin to a literary epic. From his scholarly endeavors at Stanford Medical School to serving as Assistant Clinical Professor of Gastroenterology at Georgetown University and Stanford University, his trajectory is as diverse as it is captivating. Notably, he is also a US Navy veteran and served on the Board of Regents at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. His journey took an intriguing turn when he served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Nixon era, a period undoubtedly fraught with complex challenges requiring adept navigation of both public health and other critical issues.

With a CV longer than a CVS receipt (with about 50 past and present leadership and professional positions), Dr. Wilbur's humility shines through when he quipped, "It looks like I can't hold a job," spoken with characteristic humility, but belies the depth of his impact.

During his tenure as President of the American College of Legal Medicine in 2007, Dr. Wilbur spearheaded pivotal changes that continue to shape our organization's trajectory today. His visionary approach to long-range planning ensured that our leaders not only addressed immediate needs but also prepared for sustained success through multi-year initiatives. Moreover, under his guidance, the Amicus Committee bylaw underwent a significant amendment, mandating approval from the Board of Governors before submitting an amicus brief to the court. Additionally, the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee streamlined the nominating process for officers, fostering greater inclusivity within our membership.

Dr. Wilbur currently serves as the ACLM AMA Delegate, a role he has admirably fulfilled for numerous years. The ACLM had the honor of recognizing this steadfast commitment during our recent awards banquet in San Diego.

In addition to being a Fellow of ACLM, Dr. Wilbur is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (formerly Institute of Medicine), the Royal Society of Medicine, and the American College of Physicians, and a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives.

Yet, it is not merely Dr. Wilbur's professional achievements that define him. Seventy-two years of marriage to Betty Lou speak volumes about the man behind the resume, and their sons are a testament to the values they hold dear.

Indeed, his lifetime of achievements speaks volumes about his remarkable journey. For when one lives a life as rich and meaningful as Dr. Wilbur's, titles and positions become secondary to the profound imprint left on hearts and minds of the people he has profoundly affected.

For those wishing to send their regards to Dr. Wilbur, please email info@aclm.org.

Here's to you, Dr. Wilbur, on your 100th trip around the sun! May your legacy continue to inspire and amaze for generations to come. Cheers to Dr. Richard Wilbur, a true titan of medicine, law, and life itself!

Keep shining,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Vinluan".

Michael Vinluan, MD, JD, FCLM
President
