

Jean B. Case, M.D.

Jean: You were accepted at Johns Hopkins medical school despite the admissions committee member who said, “Do you realize you’re taking the place of a man?” You were one of ten women in a class of 100 medical students. In your third year, you met David Case who was then an intern. Two weeks later, you became engaged and six months later were married. And this year, you have celebrated your 40th wedding anniversary.

The challenge of making a competent diagnosis, coupled with the opportunity to have a longer term relationship with patients, influenced your decision to specialize in internal medicine during your residency at St. Luke’s Hospital.

When David was assigned to the US Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington, you accepted a position in rheumatology at the University of Washington. You worked in the arthritis clinic and conducted research.

When David’s Army tour was over, you moved back to New York where you built a busy private practice in internal medicine and rheumatology. After five years you moved into occupational medicine with Exxon, and then became the first woman medical director of its Bayway refinery and chemical plant in New Jersey.

When you left Exxon to go to work for Merck, Teamsters Union executives came to your farewell party and gave you a plaque that read: “To Dr. Jean Case. Living proof that one person can make a difference. You will be missed.”

Then the Union Carbide Corporation recruited you to become its global medical director. You visited chemical plants around the world and helped to ensure they met standards for health and safety.

Twelve years later you decided to return to private practice and joined New York Physicians LLP.

Jean, as you have been adventurous in your practice of medicine, you have been equally adventurous in exploring the outdoors – seeing Mount Everest from base camp, rafting down the Grand Canyon, on safari in Botswana.

You have said that someone who is ill is not just a collection of data but a whole person who has a spiritual dimension. Spirituality is an integral part of your life and you are an active seeker, asking the big questions: Why are we here? Where are we going?

For you and David both, your two sons Thayer and Nelson have been a continuing joy to your lives. You continue to learn important lessons from them and from your beautiful granddaughter, Azzie. And they grow in admiration and appreciation of their mother and of her many important accomplishments.

Jean, for the countless lives that you have touched, for the exceptional personal care that you give to your patients, the Trustees of HealthCare Chaplaincy are proud to present you with the *Wholeness of Life* Award for lifetime achievement.