

Eulogy to Paul C. MacDonald, M.D.
by Peggy Joyce Whalley M.D.

Following Dr. Paul MacDonald's death on 25 November 1997, Mrs. MacDonald contacted Dr. Whalley and told her that it was "Paul's wish that she do the eulogy". What follows is the text Dr. Whalley had in front of her when she delivered that eulogy at the memorial service for Paul C. MacDonald, M.D.

Paul was my friend and we had a very special relationship, one that I would characterize as being somewhere between a brother/sister and a father/daughter kinship depending on the circumstances.

Without hesitation Paul delighted in telling people that he was "my hero"! Without question he was right on the mark!

The hero role he specifically referred to took place a long time ago. To be exact, 40 years ago in 1957 very close to this time of the year. I was a 1st year OB/GYN resident at Parkland Hospital, having started the residency in July of that year with 4 other 1st year residents. For a variety of reasons, over the next few months, 3 of those residents quit, leaving myself and fellow resident, Doyce Dees to take care of the many duties always relegated to residents who are in their 1st year of training.

One morning, a ray of sunshine came through the ER. - I was completely inundated with patients ... and in walked my "hero to be" - Paul MacDonald. He introduced himself as the new 1st year resident (just returning from the Navy...) NEEDLESS TO SAY, I didn't waste any time with introductions, I promptly put him to work, added his name to the night call schedule and our lifelong friendship was sealed.

For the next 3 years Paul & I spent a lot of time together at Parkland probably more time than he was able to spend with his family.

Much of that time was nocturnal - meaning - "ON-CALL" together.

Throughout those long nights we conferred with, relied upon, and learned from each other.

When we did find time to sleep we shared the same call room, because in those days there were no separate sleeping facilities, at Parkland, for female residents.

We delighted in the comical suspense this created each time the operator would call the 'room' looking for me. Paul would answer in his sleepest voice and announce "Peg it's for you" as he passed me the phone.

In the years, to follow, we always jokingly referred to that period in our lives as the "3 years we slept together"

Not too many people are aware that when Paul started his residency he only planned on staying one year. He thought he needed more experience in obstetrics before going into general practice with a friend of his somewhere in the vicinity of Dallas.

However, after his years' experience in managing pregnancies ((and my pleading with him not to leave)) he changed his plans, not because of me, but because HE had developed an intense interest in

GYN endocrinology and was eager to obtain more training in that specialty.

With his residency completed, he spent, the next, 2 years in New York at Columbia Univ. College where he studied Endocrinology and Biochemistry and learned to think like a basic scientist as well as a clinician.

He came back to Dallas, joined the faculty at UT Southwestern and started his very successful career.

Paul was a man of many talents. During his lifetime he wore many hats and he wore all of them with distinction and style.

First and foremost, to Sue, he was a loving husband & to his 3 boys ... Carey, Rusty & Scott a very proud father.

(2) He was a life-long student in constant search of the truth; he was an astute clinician and basic scientist investigator: a rare combination among obstetrician/ gynecologists; he was a very gifted teacher and lecturer par excellence -

With a piece of chalk and a blackboard Paul could make the most complicated reproductive endocrinology problem seem simple and logical. (4) IN SHORT, Paul was a great inspiration to all students, residents and fellows alike, challenging them to continually seek more knowledge.

Between 1970 and 1977, Paul served as Chairman of the Department and it was during this time that he once again became my hero.

At the beginning of his tenure, as Chairman, the field of obstetrics was rapidly changing. The sub-specialty of maternal fetal medicine ^{DID NOT EXIST} ~~had not been formulated~~, yet Paul realized the need for the development of some innovative measures to care for the fetus, at risk of dying before birth, or at risk of premature delivery. He accordingly convinced the Parkland administration to let us utilize an empty 30-bed ward at Woodlawn Hospital for just that purpose - caring for the high risk pregnancy. & THAT WAS WHEN PAUL LAUNCHED MY CAREER IN MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE.

Altho, I am often given the credit for establishing Parklands' High Risk Pregnancy ward the credit fully belongs to Paul who had the wisdom and foresight to predict the future need ^{FOR} of just such a facility. I was only the instrument he used to accomplish it. The High Risk Pregnancy ward was the 1st such ward in the U.S. and served as a model for the development of many others across the country.

It is to Paul, the man loved as, son, husband, father, leader, mentor, colleague and friend to all of us, that we are grateful he shared himself and gave his 100% as WE join together, today, to celebrate the joy of having been in his life.