



Cramer Reed's Life of Service Memory

"I urge each of you to pursue your chosen field with sincere humility and greater empathy with your patients than many other health care providers have demonstrated in the past.

You are the models -- you have the power to be change agents quite capable of influencing your peers to quietly bring more humanness to all that we do. If we do not initiate a 'kinder, gentler' approach to our patient contacts, we will not be living up to our full potential as premier health professionals."

Dr. D. Cramer Reed
Commencement Address
College of Health Professions
Commencement, May 2000



About D. Cramer Reed

Dr. D. Cramer Reed, founding dean of the College of Health Professions, died April 11, 2007 at Larksfield Place in Wichita.

D. Cramer Reed earned his bachelor's degree in biological science from Wichita University in 1937. While at WU, he served as class president and was a member of the football team. He earned his M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, where he met his wife, Geney. He later earned his MS from the University of Pennsylvania. He began his illustrious career as an urologist and educator in 1946, and was the first to perform a kidney dialysis in Wichita.

Dr. Reed served on the Wichita University Board of Regents from 1959 to 1964 and is a former member of the Board of Trustees (1964-69).

Upon his retirement from medical practice in 1970, he was chosen as founding dean of the College of Health Professions at WSU. Leading the effort to bring to Wichita the University of Kansas School of Medicine, he was named founding dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita in 1971. Although he retired from both institutions, he still served as clinical professor of health education at WSU and clinical professor of surgery at KUSM-W for many years. As medical director and vice president for medical affairs at Wesley Medical Center, he co-founded Health Strategies. He retired from Wesley in 1986, becoming a health care consultant.

His community involvement was vast, serving on the boards of directors for the Institute of Logopedics, the Kansas Society of Crippled Children, and Senior Services. The Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce named him with their Uncommon Citizen Award in 1989. Dr. Reed and Mrs. Reed were recognized as "Outstanding Citizens of Wichita" in 2003 by the Mayor and City Council.

A WSU Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Reed is the recipient of the WSU Alumni Achievement Award and was a member of the Alumni Association board of directors, serving as president from 1951-52. He was a longtime member of the College of Health Professions Dean's Advisory Committee, which he chaired for many years.

In honor of Dr. Reed's many accomplishments and his unconditional giving to the community, the College of Health Professions and many of his colleagues and friends established the D. Cramer Reed Faculty Development Fund in 1990. The D. Cramer Reed Lecture Hall exists in Ahlberg Hall, home of the College of Health Professions, in honor of this leader. The Reeds also established a scholarship/fellowship for students in the College of Health Professions and an endowed fund for departmental support. In his last months, Dr. Reed, along with his wife, provided start-up funding for the new Leadership Academy within the College, and memorial gifts are being directed to that purpose.

Dean Cohen's Personal Reflections on Dr. D. Cramer Reed



University of Kansas Medical Center, Honorary Alumni Award, Sept. 16, 2006

Kit Fuller (daughter, top left); Dr. Peter Cohen (top right); Geney Reed (wife, bottom left); and Dr. Cramer Reed (bottom right)

Although it is difficult to express what Cramer Reed meant to me in a few words, I will try. Quite simply, Cramer Reed was the most remarkable man I've ever known. I have thought of him virtually every day since the day I met him, which was nine years ago when I interviewed for my position at Wichita State University. He was in his eighties then, and had already accomplished the great things for which he will be remembered. Although I didn't share in the history of his impact in our community, from the moment we met I felt an immediate and intimate connection with him. He was, in fact, the primary reason I came to Wichita. I have come to realize that Cramer had this effect on virtually everyone he met.

Greatness is seen not only through the eyes and minds of others, but more importantly through their hearts. I personally saw Cramer's greatness not by what he had achieved, but through the hearts, including mine, of those he touched. Several years ago, he and I somehow got into a discussion of leadership and I mentioned how I was struck by Jim Collins' notion of great leaders in his book *Good to Great*. Collins maintained that the best leaders, what he called "Level 5 leaders," achieved great results through a paradoxical blend of deep personal humility and intense professional resolve. It's an exceedingly rare combination. Cramer asked me if I had ever met such a leader. I thought for a moment and replied, "Yes, Cramer, I've met one such person and I'm talking to him right now." Of course he just laughed, shook his head, and patted my arm.

Without knowing it, Cramer was the most important mentor and role model in my life. I'm sure, though, that he knew he was my friend.