



MEDICAL

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H. Kenneth Walker – the best friend of Tbilisi State Medical University

Professor Walker not only made a great contribution to the development of medical education in Georgia, but thanks to his refined personal characteristics made a great impression on everyone who at least once had the happiness of a close relationship with him. Prof. Kennett Walker was remarkable not only with advanced professionalism but his spiritual nature as well ...

Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria
Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

Zurab Orjonikidze (TSMU Chancellor, Professor): "Today we bid farewell to a great personality and a great friend of our country, Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi and Georgia, the biggest foreign friend of the medical university. Tbilisi State Medical University will always be grateful for the great deeds that Ken has done for TSMU."

Prof. Zurab Orjonikidze, Chancellor of Tbilisi State Medical University

"It happens very rarely when you meet a person who combined in him such contradictory features as: on the one hand respectability wisdom and, on the other hand youth daring. He was a man with a remarkable intellect and marvelous thinking ability, as well as, such an idealism, appearance of the Real Dandi and immediate, true humanity."

Prof. Khatuna Todadze, Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

„There is no word in Georgian or any other language that can mark the teacher's, mentor's death. Perhaps because this is an orphanhood and there is no need in seeking for new words“.

Prof. Rima Beriashvili, Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

Prof. Ken Walcker had an extraordinary character - he helped any person - just a few days before his death, we were planning to send one of our graduates to Emory University clinic for the free treatment"

prof. Irakli Kokhraidze, Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

He never retired! He died working, dreating better future for generations to come. He died serving Emory University and Country of Georgia, realizing his "mission" for life.

Dr. Walker passed away on February 23, 2018 and left us, his students with a paramount heritage of caring for future.

Archil Undilashvili,
Head of American MD Program of Tbilisi State Medical University





There was only one Ken Walker, who was a Double "Georgian"... I can't think of anyone who has had a greater impact on Health system and medical education of Country Georgia. Ken always inspired us.. He was one of the Giants on whose shoulders we have stood to

see our future. He defined what a leader, mentor and friend is - We are astonished by his accomplishments.

Ken became the eternal part of Georgia-Country and Tbilisi State Medical University 26th years ago and will remain so. He was a

THANK YOU FOR LOVING AND HELPING US, FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE...

remarkable person always leaving an unforgettable mark in everyone's lives. His friendly, helpful and strong hand was always there to support, push, create life changing opportunities and provide unique chances to flourish, grow, learn, achieve, build, make the dreams true!

He will be remembered and terribly missed by the army of his Georgian friends, students, doctors and whole Medical Community of Country Georgia, at large.

It was a rare honor and enormous pleasure to share my life moments with him. Emory School of Medicine and particularly, Prof. Kenneth Walker was a great help in development of highly qualified

faculty and new USMD program at TSMU, professional networks to follow with raising clinical standards and the need for excellence. Ken Walker's commitment and foresight have resulted in the growth and development of Georgian Health care and Medical Education at all levels. By supporting of young Georgian professionals he laid foundation of our progress. I am proud to know him. He was truly a great individual who has carried the torch for Georgians toward progress and development.

Because of the caring and tender mentor, as he was, Ken Walker will be sorely missed. His wisdom and love will continue to guide each

of us throughout our lives. His lifetime of dedication and self-sacrifice serve as a monument to the exemplary man he was. His generosity, integrity, and hard work continue to inspire those who knew him.

Ken, Thank you for loving and helping us, for everything you have done for my University and Country! Your efforts never die! The best thing that you left behind for us is your example. We will always remember your warm smile!

Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria
Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

CEREMONY DEDICATED TO PROF. KENNETT (KEN) WALKER



On February 27, 2018, academic, administrative staff and students of Tbilisi State Medical University gathered at the 3rd academic Building of Tbilisi State Medical University on farewell ceremony dedicated to Prof. Kennett (Ken) Walker, Professor of Internal Medicine, Neurology and Global Health at Emory University (Atlanta, USA), visiting professor and Honorary Doctor of TSMU and Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi and Georgia, to commemorate him on his last journey. They recalled numerous merits and contribution made by him to the development of Georgia in its hardest times. Much has been said about the merits in establishment of the Atlanta-Tbilisi Partnership, collaboration between educational and health care institutions in Georgia and Atlanta, promoting career for many young people and enhancement of their motivation. In parallel, farewell evening dedicated to Professor Walker's commemoration was also held in his hometown near Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Professor **Zurab Vadachkoria**, Rector of the Tbilisi State Medical University attended the ceremony and gave a farewell speech at the funeral: „I would like to express my gratefulness to Professor Walker for his contribution made to development of our country and university. A big army of Georgian doctors will be grateful to him forever. Professor Walker's kind smile will forever remain in our memory.”

Dr. Archil Undilashvili (Director of International Educational Programs at Emory University School of Medicine and Head of the US MD Program at TSMU) has been working with Dr. Walker for over 14 years. He recalls when he first met Dr. Walker: "I met Dr. Walker 16 years ago in restaurant in Georgia. At introduction, he shook my hand and said: "INGLISURI?"



He meant if I spoke English, which I did not. We met again after couple of months, he again shook my hand and said: "INGLISURI", only than it was not a question, but an "order". I started intensive English classes immediately. We met again after a year, when he saw my progress, he immediately offered me an opportunity to refine my language skills at Kaplan education enter in Atlanta. I soon started language courses there. Dr. Walker was a very unique person, he was the most generous, selfless person who cared about the future of our country and people more than anyone I have known. It is hard to describe who I lost with his death as he was to me a mentor, colleague, family and friend all at the same time. He would often describe our relationship - "Dzmakatsebi" (good-friend), as he perfectly understood and appreciated this very unique Georgian term to its full extent" ... We stood on his shoulders and now we have a challenge to carry on his legacy in his shadow".

The farewell speeches were given by: Prof. Zurab Orjonikidze, Chancellor of TSMU; Vice-Rectors of TSMU: Prof. Rima Beriashvili, Prof. Khatuna Todadze, Prof. Irakli Kokhraidze; Eka Ekaladze, Director of US MD Program; TSMU Professors and long-standing friends: Gia Tomadze, Zviad Kirtava, Alexander Aladashvili and other invited guests. Elene Godziashvili, the representative of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia, read the letter of condolences send by Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director General of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia.

Zurab Orjonikidze (TSMU Chancellor, Professor): "Today we bid farewell to a great personality and a great friend of our country, Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi and Georgia, the biggest foreign friend of the medical university. Tbilisi State Medical University will always be grateful for the great deeds that Ken has done for TSMU. You are all aware, but I would like to emphasize over again and say loudly that the US MD program, that we are proud of and that has no equal in Georgia, the South Caucasus region as well as in the post-Soviet space, is the result of efforts made by Kenneth Walker! I would like to ask the students of US MD Program to visit Professor's grave and light the candle when being in Atlanta this spring.

Rima Beriashvili (Vice-Rector of TSMU, Professor): «There is no word in Georgian or any other language that can mark the teacher's, mentor's death. Perhaps because this is an orphanhood and there is no need in seeking for new words. I lost my teacher from whom I was studying for my whole life; I learned to do good which was the purpose of his life. He first came to TSMU in 1992, when exchange program of academic staff has been started. That's when I got acquainted with Professor Walker. He loved Georgian people. I used to ask him the reason, but he just smiled back in response. He deliberately left this question in secret till the end ... Kenneth Walker was a great personality, we lived with a legend, a giant; from his shoulders the future looked better.

Georgian medical community has sustained a great loss in the death of Professor Kenneth Walker. Col-



leagues, friends and students recalled and paid tribute to the memory of American professor, who was in special love with Georgia and struggled for its development.

Khatuna Todadze (Vice-Rector of TSMU, Professor): "It happens very rarely when you meet a person who combined in him such contradictory features as: on the one hand respectability wisdom and, on the other hand youth daring. He was a man with a remarkable intellect and marvelous thinking ability, as well as, such an idealism, appearance of the Real Dandi and immediate, true humanity. He was a man who taught us what we wanted to be in terms of a teacher and a personality and especially it is important for students.

Irakli Kokhraidze (Vice-Rector of TSMU, Professor): "Professor Ken Walker and I had a 10-year history of relationship that started in Kaspi in 2008, after the Russian-Georgian war. It was then, when the fate of Georgia was absolutely still-uncertain, Ken Walker spoke with his Georgian colleagues about the development of women's reproductive health. Prof. Ken Walker had an extraordinary character - he helped any person - just a few days before his death, we were planning to send one of our graduates to Emory University clinic for the free treatment"

It should be emphasized that the first time Professor Kennett Walker visited Georgia within the frames of USAID program "Georgia to Georgia" in 1992. Under his support and supervision, the exchange programs for students, clinical personnel, young specialists and academic staff between Tbilisi State Medical University and Emory University School of Medicine have been conducted for more than 25 years. On the initiative of Professor Kennett Walker, the project of American MD program has been developed and implemented, as a result of successful cooperation of the Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) and Emory University (U.S. Atlanta) School of Medicine (ESOM).

Eka Ekaladze (US MD Program Director of TSMU): "Ken was a man charming everyone at first encounter; filling everyone with great energy - it didn't make a difference who you were - big, little, young, old, student, academician ... it was not necessary to be acquainted with him for years - only a few hours and you thought you knew him all your life. It could not have gone any other way. Despite I had the privilege of being acquainted with him for only a few years, there's still so much to recall..."

Nodar Maisuradze (student of US MD Program of TSMU): "No coincidence that so many people in this small town

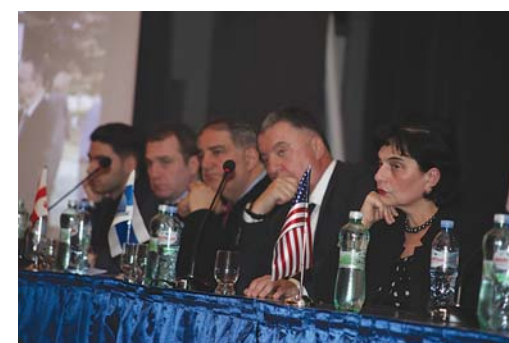
gathered around Ken Walker. It should be emphasized that I knew him for 5 years and I am grateful to him. It was easy to communicate with him, we became friends from the very first day I met him. Foremost, I remember cordial and warm relations he had to me and my classmates. For him, age actually did not matter that much, he treated me with utmost respect as his deserved peer.

Having been in Atlanta for 1 month, every day I saw his generous attitude towards the patients at Graidy Hospital. He used to tell me - the patient should smile when you are leaving the ward. From the very first day he placed great trust in me (the first year student) to manage the patient and told me - "Tomorrow, to my question, who is his personal physician, the patient should point at you". He made a great contribution to the implementation and development of our program."

After ceremony all moved to the church where a funeral service was arranged. After the service the photo of Prof. Kenneth Walker was decorated with flowers and the attendees participated in the symbolic candles ceremony.

Ken Walker was awarded the Emory Medal - Emory's highest alumni award on March 1, 2018. The planned event was held in his absence and Dr. Archil Undilashvili, Director of Educational Programs at the Emory University School of Medicine and Head of US MD Program of TSMU, accepted the Medal. Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of TSMU, attended the event. Among many distinguished guests were Georgian professors practicing at Emory University.

Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi and Georgia Prof. Dr. Walker passed away suddenly on February 22, at the age of 81. The American professor, who was in love with Georgians, was buried in a small patrimonial cemetery of a county located in the U.S. state of Georgia.



KEN WALKER HAS BEEN AWARDED WITH EMORY MEDAL



From February 24 to March 3, 2018, Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, paid an official visit to Atlanta to attend the ceremony of the Emory Alumni Association in Atlanta, (USA). The 2018 Emory Medal - Emory's highest alumni award, was awarded to Professor H. Kenneth Walker and to three Emory nurses, who treated patients suffering from Ebola. It is noteworthy to emphasize that Emory was first to treat and cure patients with Ebola, and the nurses receiving the award had a significant role in it. They have demonstrated a selfless commitment to saving lives and preventing the disease. The Emory Medal was awarded to Prof. Kenneth Walker for great contributions made to the Emory University and the global health community. Prof. Ken Walker was nominated as pretender to honorary award still before his death. Several days before passing away Professor of Internal Medicine was specially preparing for the event planned.

Letter of the Emory Alumni Association says: "Ken Walker has had a great impact on global health care outreach". On March 1, the highest award was given after Kenneth Walker's death.

Dr. Walker's friend and colleague, Archil Undilashvili, accepted award presented by Prof. Vikas P. Sukhatme, Dean of Emory University School of Medicine. Archil Undilashvili, Director of Educational Programs at the Emory University School of Medicine and Head of US MD Program at TSMU addressed the honorable guests: "This is a great honor and responsibility for me. Just like every one of you, I am deeply sorry Professor Walker could not at-

tend this ceremony. I wish to express my deepest appreciation and congratulate the nurses on the deserved award and recognition. Today, Dr. Walker would be especially proud receiving this honor next to you. He has always believed, "if you improve nursing in the country advancement of rest of health care system is inevitable". We are all proud of what Emory University School of Medicine has done for Georgia. Within the post-soviet space, for the first time, the continuous education programs in nursing were launched as a result of the direct efforts made by Prof. Kenneth Walker. Among many things, he established the Nursing School and training center in Georgia. On behalf of Ken Walker, his family, friends and colleagues I would like to thank you for the honor! Special thanks to President N. Sterk, Dean Vikas P. Sukhatme, the leadership of the School of Medicine, colleagues and friends. Thank you very much for appreciation! "

Prof. Ken Walker's death was a deep sadness and emotional experience for everyone in both Georgia and the USA. While academic and administrative staff, students and honorary guests of TSMU gathered on a farewell ceremony dedicated to Prof. Kenneth Walker at Tbilisi State Medical University, the colleagues and relatives were attending a funeral of a great personality in Washington, one of the oldest towns in Georgia (USA). Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, gave a farewell speech at the funeral ceremony: "I would like to express my gratefulness to Professor Walker for his contributions and efforts made to the development of our country and university. Professor Walker not only made great contribution to the development of medical education in Georgia, but thanks to his refined personal characteristics made a great impression on everyone who at least once had the happiness of a close relationship with him. Prof. Kenneth Walker was remarkable not only with advanced professionalism but his spiritual nature as well ... a lot of Georgian students, physicians and academic staff can tell you about this, and this can serve as a proof of their sincere love and great pain for Prof. Ken's death. Not just today but in the future - a big army of Georgian doctors will be grateful to him forever. Professor Walker will remain in our memories with his kind smile forever. "

Prof. Vikas Sukhatme, the Dean, J. William Eley, M.D., M.P.H. - Executive Associate Dean, Dr. Gordon Churchword, Assistant Dean, Thomas Lawley - Emeritus Dean, Dr. Claudia Atkinson Executive Associate Dean Retired of Emory School of Medicine, Georgian Professors, physicians and students working and studying in the Emory University School of Medicine, among hundreds of other distinguished alumni and guests attended the Emory Medical Ceremony.

Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, was invited to attend the Emory Alumni Award Ceremony, where he was accompanied by his wife - Professor Marina Mamaladze. During the visit to Atlanta, Professor Mamaladze visited Emory University School of Medicine to learn about Emory's Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and Clinical Skills Center activities.

Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University and Prof. Vikas Sukhatme, Dean of the Emory School of Medicine talked about long stand partnership of two universities, highlighting importance of USMD Program and new, USAID funded Physical Therapy Development program in Georgia. The project implementation was successfully started by Professor Kenneth Walker with his team in October 2017.

It should be emphasized that Tbilisi State Medical University has long-standing and fruitful partnership with Emory University School of Medicine. The co-operation between these high medical schools started in 1992 when Professor Kenneth Walker first visited Georgia under the USAID sponsored "Georgia to Georgia" program. With his support and supervision, the exchange programs for students and clinical faculty between Tbilisi State Medical University and Emory University School of Medicine has been conducted for over 25 years. On the initiative of Professor Kenneth Walker, the American MD program was developed and implemented. Program has become a symbol of partnership between two leading academic institutions.



KINDNESS - WITHOUT BORDERS



In independent Georgia of the 90s, in massive power cut and queues for bread, no one expected that the United States would send a person such as Prof. Kenneth Walker to support a healthcare reform and training new staff in the country. Neither Ken expected that he would fall in love with Georgia and Georgian people and provide care for constant patronage of this little country.

Actually, there are many good and distinct people in this vast universe/world, but among them we meet the extraordinary people turning our stereotypical outlook upside down with their behavior; in different perspective show us the greatness of universal values and in general, help us to perceive the world with other angle. Such people change, educate and - constantly surprise us.

Ken Walker was a completely different person. He was an intellectual who instead of standing "aside or a bit forward" from development process (what intellectuals treat as an unforgivable sin in all epochs), was taking entire responsibility for turnaround to

goodness and changes, and the outcome was always unique. He was happy to do good and found greatest significance of his personality in this process.

Ken Walker has had a great impact on the global healthcare sector, but for him the object of goodness were - we, Georgians. In the care of health care and medical education in Georgia, it does not have any analogy in friendly support and support of Georgian doctors.

His friendly support and contribution made to development of healthcare system, medical education and Georgian healthcare professionals does not have any analogues.

Ken Walker made a special contribution to retraining academic

staff of Tbilisi State Medical University and promoting many generations of young specialists, in the development of emergency medicine and nursing care in the country and generally, in development of the country's health care system. On the initiative of Ken Walker in Georgia was founded: the first Electronic Learning Center; the US MD Program at TSMU on the basis of cooperation with Emory University School of Medicine; since 2017 he has started to implement the physical rehabilitation project in Georgia.

Kenny was always a future-oriented idealist helping us to generate new ideas and find new opportunities through his ability of going out of the frames of imagination. It is our duty to diversify the daily routine of the experiences that made us happy and thinking about! Ken has taught us something very fundamental - unlimited power is in doing good!!!

Thank you Ken for soaring up, transformations, love ... for eternal youthful enthusiasm and inspiration! He won't live forever in us, he will born - everlasting!

Prof. Rima Beriashvili
Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State
Medical University



DR. HENRY KENNETH WALKER

Henry Kenneth Walker MD, Ken, was born on October 4, 1936 on a farm near Washington, Georgia. His parents, Henry Walker and Grace Walker were teachers who took farming during great depression to support the family. From early childhood, Ken showed significant affection towards books and his classmate recalls by 7th grade Dr. Walker has read every single book at school and in the county library. He read on any given opportunity. He was often spotted reading on the bus station and stumbling as he entered bust with number of books in his one hand and reading open book from his other....

His morning began at 4 am, milking cows and feeding chicken, followed by quick breakfast to catch a school bus at 7am.

When in 9th grade, a recruiter from small town of Oxford, near Atlanta, Georgia, came to Ken's school and selected him to continue studies in the Emory at Oxford.

History of Emory Starts at Oxford College in 1936. Dr. Walker's history with Emory started from Emory at Oxford in 1952. He left Emory University for brief 2 years in 1965-1967, when he joined US Air force and was stationed in the Philippines, Clark Military base medical team during Vietnam War. Upon return, Captain Walker reunited with his Alma Mater.

Professor of Medicine, Neurology and Global Health, his name spreads well beyond Emory and Atlanta and is considered as one of the legends of Medical Education and Patient Care nationally and Globally. For his dedication to medical profession and education, he has received number of awards and recognitions. Fundamental knowledge of medicine, compassion towards patient and the family, highest standard of professionalism are the skills that were imprinted in almost 50 classes of students he trained during his career. Dr Walker has trained more internal medicine residents than any other professor at Emory University.

For years, Dr. Walker has led internal medicine residency program, Clerkship in Medicine and Clinical Methods course.

He believed, that his life was deeply influenced by his teachers and mentors and had dedicated his life to success of younger generation.

At Emory, Dr. Walker served as a president of Emory Senate, founding member and second president of the National Clerkship Directors' Association. He was the first to implement electronic medical records system at Grady Memorial Hospital. For number of Years he served on the board of the National Library of Medicine at NIH, Member of the Board of the Library of Congress. "Clinical Methods", authored by him is the most used textbook by thousands to teach and learn medicine.

Ken in Georgia

Ken first travelled to Georgia in August 1992, 2 weeks before the first Ambassador of the United States arrived in Tbilisi. Many of his friends and colleagues often humored him by referring to Ken as the "First US Ambassador in Georgia".

"It was August 1992, I was seating in my office when my dean called me asking: Ken, How about going to Tbilisi for me next week. I said, Sure Jeff, where is Tbilisi?..."

... in two weeks I was on my flight to Tbilisi through Moscow..."

This was the beginning of Dr. Walker's Georgian Adventure. He started partnership with Professor Archil Kobaladze of Georgia. Very soon they became very close friends and lead important initiatives for the development of Georgian Healthcare system. Immediately, after the first visit, Ken and Archil realized that it was not enough to just work with one hospital as initially planned. Deeper more thorough, multidisciplinary collaboration with Georgia was necessary to rehabilitate the failing healthcare sector of the country. Returning to US, Dr. Walker mobilized all the necessary resources, human and material to realize the achievements that we all so proudly celebrate almost 3 decades from his first visit.

First was "Atlanta-Tbilisi" healthcare partnership, and partners for help. Together with Professor Kobaladze, first National Information and Learning Center (NILC) was established. Center was the first to provide electronic access

to the journals, textbooks, research, etc. This was a revolutionary achievement for Georgian Medical Society, as not only internet and access to original literature was limited, or non existing in Georgia, even Electricity was a rare commodity.

In Early 2000s, partnership incorporated in US as "Partners for International Development, Inc." Not for profit, Nongovernmental organization, following with a branch established in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In Last 25 years, Dr. Walker played significant role in the development of the Georgian Healthcare system. He was personally responsible for training over 200 Georgian physicians and students in Residency short term clinical and other professional, Masters and Doctorate degree programs in United States of America. Dr. Walker played instrumental role in establishing Caucasus University, formerly Caucasus School of Business; successful collaboration between leading Georgian and US institutions in the fields of AIDS and Tuberculosis; development of first pediatric and adult emergency services and specialties in the post soviet space; promotion and advancement of nursing profession; establishment of first continuous nursing education center; establishment of first western style medical education curriculum, based on Emory School of Medicine, at Tbilisi State Medical Univer-



sity; founding "Kobaladze Center for Research and Experiential Learning"; introduction and organization of newest medication for National Hepatitis C elimination program in Georgia and his last big initiative, start of the Physical Rehabilitation program in Georgia, with support of USAID...

Dr. Walker's dedication was exemplary for everyone who has ever come in contact with his professional affairs. He never stopped working or thought of retiring regardless of his tireless efforts for over 5 decades of his career. Every time he was asked when he planned to retire, he always had one answer: "Never." He maintained that after retirement, "There is only one big event left about one's life" ... and so it happened...

He never retired! He died working, creating better future for generations to come. He died serving Emory University and Country of Georgia, realizing his "mission" for life.

Dr. Walker passed away on February 23, 2018 and left us, his students with a paramount heritage of caring for future.

Archil Undilashvili
MD MPH MBA MHA FACP
Head of American MD Program at TSMU
Director of Educational Programs at
Emory University School of Medicine

STUDENTS ABOUT DR. KENNETH WALKER

"We often say that the hour of death can't be forecast. When we say this we imagine this hour would be in a distant future. I never thought I would be thinking about Dr. Walker as a memory without being able to share his valuable lessons about dedication and professionalism.

Unfortunately I did not have such a great honour to be one of many Georgian students who have benefited from his warm heart and great personality.

But the most important is that I have heard a lot about his selfless generosity and devotion for the health of middle-level hospital administrators training nurses and planning a nursing school, working with Georgian scientists and physicians in AIDS and tuberculosis. Dr Ken Walker, was the only individual statewide who received the award, for his nearly 60 years of dedication to healthcare through his work at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University School of Medicine.

I am grateful and very proud of being the member of such a great program, I mean US MD Program at Tbilisi State Medical University, which was founded by the most honorable and worthy person Doctor Ken Walker."



Ani Phazava
Student of US MD Program, Class of 2023
Student of US MD Program, Class of 2019

"Once you get past Ken's genial smile you are left to wonder about the myth behind the man. The admiration he commands was unnerving at first but it all makes sense when you see the man in action.

Whilst on rounds with Dr. Walker I watched him calm a hysterical patient. As the student was droning on about lab values, he began to press her for her khinkali recipe. From the amount of salt to the number of pleats, he managed to coax it all out of her. And with all the precise details came the anxiety. We left that room as she was hailing his name. I was floored.

That was the kind of man Dr. Walker was. He always put the person before the practice and technicality had no consideration until humanity had been addressed. Unassuming and altruistic, countless people have benefited from his service. As evidenced by his twilight years, he embodied medicine as a lifestyle not merely a profession. (Lord knows I would have called it quits ages ago)

And he will be missed but I am comforted by the knowledge that his achievements and intellect (and hopefully his sense of humor) will endure through us".

Zakee Ahmed
Student of US MD Program, Class of 2019

„THE ATLANTA JOURNAL“ ABOUT DR. WALKER

WALKER, Dr. Henry Kenneth "Ken" Walker, M.D., of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away Friday, February 23, 2018 after a sudden illness. He was born on a small farm outside Washington, Georgia, on October 4, 1936 to the late Henry Samson Walker and Katie Grace Burgess Walker.

A skinny, naive boy who loved reading, he was recruited to Emory at Oxford in a new curriculum based on the Great Books of the Western World series. After receiving his associate degree there, he transferred to Emory College for his BS degree and Medical School for his M.D. degree in 1963. He never left Emory, except for his stint in the US Air Force. Professor of Medicine, Neurology, and Global Health, Dr. Walker was an Emory and Grady Memorial Hospital Legend, whose profound knowledge of medicine, deep compassion, and high standards for performance and professionalism were imprinted in almost 50 classes of Emory medical students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty members. Nearly every trainee who quaked during presentation of a patient to Dr. Walker on medicine rounds at Grady can to this day recite with affection and respect dozens of "Dr. Walker" stories about his wisdom, kindness, wit, apt quotations, and demands for excellence. Dr. Walker personally trained more internal medicine residents than any other physician at Emory, where he directed Emory's internal medicine residency program, the junior medicine clerkship, and the sophomore clinical methods course since 1971. He considered his life to have been determined by his mentors, the faculty at Emory, and he considered his own calling to be a mentor to the young minds he encountered in his teaching career. Dr. Walker was a dedicated citizen of Emory University and excelled in service nationally as well. He was, among many duties, President of the Emory University Senate, founding member and second president of the national Clerk-



ship Directors of Internal Medicine, a developer of Grady Hospital's computerized medical records system, and the chair of many USAID program and grant review committees. In addition to his parents, his beloved brother, Dr. Burgess Walker, and cousin, Rodger Walker, preceded Dr. Walker in death. He is survived by his niece Virginia Walker and by his "adopted" family Archil ("Achiko") and Mari Undilashvili and their two children. Ken shared his life with this adopted family, who were his professional partners in his academic and international accomplishments, and for whom he was a beloved "uncle" and "grandfather". Dr. Walker also regarded a legion of friends and patients from around the world as family and stayed in remarkably close contact. Dr. Walker was recently awarded Emory University's highest honor, the Emory Medal, which will be presented posthumously at a ceremony on March 1. He also received dozens of other prestigious awards, including the Georgia Hospital Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 and numerous Emory Medical School's teaching awards through the years. Dr. Walker's global health outreach focused on the Republic of Georgia, where he and his collaborators substantially improved the quality of health care. For more than 25 years he and Archil Undilashvili, MD, MPH, MBA, MHA, directed the Atlanta-Tbilisi Healthcare Partnership, a collaboration between educational and health care institutions in the Republic of Georgia and Atlanta.

They established the National Information Learning Center; participated in new laws and regulations reforming the healthcare sector; brought many Georgian medical students to Emory for internal medicine training and education in public health; modernized hospitals; started the field of emergency medicine and the modern emergency room; expanded nursing programs and education and planned a nursing school; established the Caucasus School of Business with a focus on hospital administration; and worked with Georgian scientists and physicians in AIDS and tuberculosis research and treatment. Already a recipient of grants to establish emergency medicine as a specialty in Georgia and improve the nursing profession, recently he and collaborators were awarded \$4M from the USAID to establish physical therapy and rehabilitation medicine programs in Georgia. They also established a new six-year medical school curriculum at Tbilisi State Medical University. For his extensive service, Dr. Walker was awarded the US AID Outstanding Achievement Citation for Europe and Eurasia and was given honorary citizenship of the Republic of Georgia, both in 2005. Dr. Walker's publications include over 60 medical papers and books on physical diagnosis, organizing medical data, evaluating the surgical patient, and the application of computers to medicine. Possibly the most widely used is his Clinical Methods textbook, co-authored with Willis Hurst and Dallas Hall, the basis for examining patients practiced today by thousands of Dr. Walker's trainees. The love of books and literature was inculcated in him as a boy by his mother, and he was member, chair, and consultant of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine starting in 1991.

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Materials were collected by Nini Zardiashvili