



In Memoriam

Dr. Lowe, health reform advocate, AAP president



Dr. Lowe

Betty A. Lowe, M.D., FAAP, of Little Rock, Ark., the second female AAP president who was the trusted pediatrician to President Bill and Hillary Clinton's daughter, died March 5 at age 78.

At a time when universal health care for children remained a goal, the 1993-'94 AAP president led the Academy in support of health care reform legislation. With Dr. Lowe's help, Mrs. Clinton accepted an invitation to address pediatricians during the 1993 AAP Annual Meeting.

"She was a true champion for children and their families. We will miss her direct approach, skeptical questions and staunch advocacy for our children," said Richard F. Jacobs, M.D., FAAP, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at University of Arkansas Medical School/Arkansas Children's Hospital (UAMS/ACH).

Dr. Lowe graduated first in her class from UAMS in 1956, where she also completed her internship.

After residency at Children's Medical Center, Boston, and UAMS, she pursued post-graduate education in rheumatology.

After 15 years in practice, she joined University of Arkansas in 1975 and ACH in 1976, expanding the 45-bed hospital to one with 260 beds, more than 70 specialty clinics and a level III neonatal intensive care unit. She served as ACH medical director, associate dean for children's affairs, and Harvey and Bernice Jones Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics at UAMS. When she retired in 2001, President Clinton delivered a speech in her honor.

Dr. Lowe also served as District VII chair (1986-'93) and alternate chair, National Nominating Committee chair and Committee on Quality Improvement member. She was Arkansas Chapter president from 1974-'77.

She received the AAP Milton Senn Award in 1996 for contributions to school health. The Betty Ann Lowe Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Education was established in 1999.

—Trisha Koriath