

Walton Wright Curl, MD

Dr Walton Curl grew up as an Army Brat, and graduated from Littleton (Colorado) Senior High School in 1964, and from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. In December of 1973 he received his MD degree from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, NC. Both his internship and residency in orthopaedic surgery were completed at Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco, California. He then completed a sports medicine fellowship at Keller Army Hospital at West Point, NY in July 1979, mentored by his long-time friend and colleague, Dr John Feagin.

During Dr.Curl's career he served as the Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the United States Military Academy, a member of the faculty at Fitzsimons Army Hospital (Denver CO), four years at the Hughston Clinic in Columbus GA, was Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, and was the Chairman of the Orthopaedic Department at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta GA.

Dr. Curl was the team physician for the United States Military Academy, Wake Forest University and Guilford College. In addition, he provided medical coverage for the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Raleigh, NC, and the US World Cup Ski Team. He also provided care for many local High School teams in the areas where he lived.

Always an avid supporter of the AOSSM, he has served on the Board of the AOSSM in various capacities and was President in 2002. He has also been on the NC Special Olympics Board, and currently is on the Board of Directors of the Feagin Leadership Program at Duke University.

His Academic awards include the SOMOS Norman T Kirk Award for research, the AOSSM George D. Rovere Educator's Award and the NC Order of the Long Leaf Pine Governor's Award for his work with the NC Governor's Council for Fitness

Throughout his career, Curl was the recipient of numerous orthopaedic research grants, with the findings published in The AMJSM and several other medical journals. He has contributed chapters to several books.

The United States Army has been a constant in the life of Dr. Curl. He served his country as an Infantry platoon leader with the 1st Cavalry Division in Viet Nam. After medical school, he was a member of the Medical Corps for 14 years, and then the Army Reserves for an additional eight years. In November 1990 he returned to active duty during Operation Desert Storm with the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Saudi Arabia. He retired as a Colonel in 1996. He is the recipient of numerous military honors, including two Bronze Stars with Valor in recognition of his outstanding service during his military career.

His family includes his wife of almost 48 years, Karen (Kay) Cummings Curl and two children, Douglas and Michael. Doug, a geologist, lives in Lexington KY with his wife Cory and their son Dylan. Mike, an Optometrist, lives in Lynchburg VA with his wife Sarah and their two children, Hannah and Jameson.

After retirement from Wake Forest, he and Kay moved to Asheville, NC where he spends an inordinate amount of time trying to learn to play the banjo. He volunteers weekly with Habitat for Humanity, takes the occasional enlightenment course, and enjoys all the mountains of North Carolina and the local community have to offer.