

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Eva F. Dodge

Class of 1919

Dr. Eva Dodge, national pioneer in birth control and health care, has had a profound effect on the health of women and children. During a career spanning more than five decades, she has improved the human condition through her efforts as physician, educator, consultant, and administrator, in eight states, as well as in South America, Europe and the Orient.

Entering medical school when women were a rarity there and in the profession, Dr. Dodge braved resentment and hostility elicited by her gender that would have discouraged a less determined person.

After completing her formal education at Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Schools of Medicine, she became the first woman to receive a rotating internship and residency in obstetrics at University Hospital in Baltimore.

This was only one of many “firsts” to her credit, and was followed by other trailblazing tasks, titles, and honors. For example, she did post-graduate study at the University of Vienna, Austria, where she attended lectures by Sigmund Freud, and a one-year stint in Shanghai, China as obstetrician and teacher. She also aided the organization of maternity clinics in North Carolina while she was the first woman physician in the Winston-Salem area and later in Mississippi and served as assistant medical director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. For her efforts, she was named Little Rock “Woman of the Year”, received the Alumni Honor Award and Gold Key of the Medical Alumni Association of the University of Maryland and was elected as President of the Pan American Medical Women’s Association.

In 1945, Dr. Dodge was appointed faculty member of the Medical School of the University of Arkansas and Director of the Maternity and Gynecology Outpatient Department, where she remained for nineteen years. Retirement in 1964 did not diminish the vigor and enthusiasm with which she carried on her life-long fight against the forces of ignorance, indifference and carelessness causing the death of thousands of mothers and babies. She has continued to be recognized as one of the outstanding persons in her field thus enhancing the stature of her profession, her sex and her Alma Mater.

November 1982

