

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS JAMES C. ALLEN

James Colton Allen, MD, was a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin Medical School's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences from 1967 to 2000. During that time, he served as chief of the Ophthalmology Service at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital where he was beloved as a physician and teacher.

He passed away on April 10, 2011.

Dr. Allen was born July 25, 1928, in Janesville, the son of James and Lillian Allen. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1952 to 1954. He was awarded the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and a Meritorious Unit Citation. He attended Marquette University School of Medicine (now the Medical College of Wisconsin) on the GI Bill and graduated in 1959.

He married Kathryn and they had two children, John and David.

Dr. Allen completed his residency at the University of Wisconsin in 1964 and studied at the Institute of Ophthalmology in London, England later that year. He completed a fellowship in the Cornea Research Unit of the Retina Foundation, Institute of Biological and Medical Sciences, in Boston in 1967. He also served as a part-time clinical instructor in ophthalmology in the Department of Surgery at UW until he joined the faculty full time in 1967.

He was a small, gentle man with a big heart, who was involved in making the world a better place, working within ophthalmology and outside the profession with groups such as Veterans for Peace. Dr. Allen attained emeritus status upon his retirement and continued to be active in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences until his passing in 2011.

Dr. Allen was famous for telling patients, "Your operation was successful and uncomplicated; you'll get a good eye out of this," a reassuring statement to those who have just undergone a surgical procedure.

He did not like injustice, no matter where he found it. When he learned that military veterans who had lost an eye as a result of their service and who later lost vision in their other eye did not receive as much disability support as those who lost a limb, Dr. Allen was upset. He worked for more than seven years conducting research into the rules of the Department of Veterans Affairs and working with his U.S. Congressional Representative, Tammy Baldwin, to change those rules. In 2007, Congress passed H.R. 797, the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act. This gave veterans greater compensation if they lost vision in one eye in the service and later began to lose vision in the other eye.

Dr. Allen received the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. The award acknowledged his work as an ophthalmologist and his activities on behalf of veterans.

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences faculty and staff, and the dozens of residents he trained, will remember Dr. Allen for his dedication to patients and his continued love of learning. He attended the department's weekly Grand Rounds until shortly before he died, and he encouraged other retired faculty to attend as well. He continued to read journals and to share what he read with those still in practice. He was always engaged in the world around him and took the time to know all members of our department's staff.

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We are honored to have worked with Dr. Allen and will never forget his contributions to our department and our lives.

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