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and Surgeons**

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In Memoriam James F. Coy, M.D.



Dr. Jim Coy, a second-generation AAPS member, was born May 8, 1948, and died in February 2019. His father, Dr. Francis Coy, began to be active in AAPS in the 1950s.

The younger Dr. Coy began his training in general medicine and surgery, nutrition, and tropical diseases in Cebu City in the Philippines, and completed post-graduate medical training at the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. His 6 years of medical practice in Marysville, Kan., included obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, general surgery, and emergency and family medicine. He was a company surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad, the industrial physician for several local companies, and county coroner.

In 1985, Dr. Coy went home to Central Florida and worked in emergency medicine and as a hospital physician, spending most of his time in the medical intensive care unit. He also began a multi-year stint in a walk-in clinic practice. His nursing staff always urged him to hurry through his patient examinations because other patients were waiting. While Dr. Coy could speed efficiently through acute care cases, he thought his patients deserved attention to their recurring symptoms. Thus, more than 20 years ago, Dr. Coy added nontraditional medicine to his practice, including chelation therapy, to which his father had introduced him, environmental medicine, and allergy therapies.

Dr. Coy served many terms on the AAPS Board of Directors and directed the AAPS-PAC for many years. He served as president of AAPS in 1988 and presided over the historic 1989 Orlando meeting, at which former AMA president, the late Edward Annis, M.D., gave a keynote address on the debates preceding the adoption of Medicare.

In his 1989 address, Dr. Coy stated: The patient-physician relationship, which operates smoothly, fairly, and with mutual respect if left to its own devices, now has become nearly unrecognizable because of outside interference. The predictions of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s are now true. The system is utter chaos. The government is present in a gargantuan proportion. Medicare is collapsing under its own weight, but instead of dust and a pile of rubble, there are new monsters arising from its belly.

At our 2017 meeting in Tucson, Ariz., in preparation for our 75th anniversary, Dr. Coy presented a talk on: "AAPS at 75: What's Past is Prologue to Victory for Patients and Physicians" (<https://youtu.be/LVCbPGbKx3c>).

Dr. Coy quoted from writings of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, published in 1896 in the miscellany *Rabotnik*:

After his friend Karl Marx (who died in 1883), Engels was the finest scholar and teacher of the modern proletariat in the whole civilized world.... In their scientific works, Marx and Engels were the first to explain that socialism is not the invention of dreamers, but the final aim and necessary result of the development of the productive forces in modern society. All recorded history hitherto has been a history of class struggle, of the succession of the rule and victory of certain social classes over others.

The passage of Medicare in 1965, Dr. Coy said, marked a huge social change, a great advance in the agenda to socialize American medicine, which has continued with the HMO Act, EMTALA (the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act), Medicare Part D, and other federal interventions. AAPS helped stop the Clinton Health Security Act, but then came the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA or "ObamaCare").

Freedom is essential to the practice of medicine. Dr. Coy concluded: "We in AAPS know that we can and will maintain freedom. Some of our opponents scoff at this, and some of our timid colleagues wring their hands in dismay and doubt, but we in AAPS know that we can do it, and do it we will!"