

The George P. Noon, M.D. Award: Celebrating the Advancement of Cardiovascular Care

After the passing of Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, I remember the tremendous outpouring of gratitude and accolades from patients, medical practitioners, and heads of state from around the globe. Though all of these heartfelt remarks were moving and deferential, I most clearly recall the words of Dr. George P. Noon, a thoracic surgeon and longtime colleague of Dr. DeBakey. I think he spoke for all of us when he said, “Dr. DeBakey single-handedly raised the standard of medical care, teaching, and research throughout the world ... he was the greatest surgeon of the 20th century, and physicians everywhere are indebted to him for his contributions to medicine.”

These words resonate with me now as I reflect upon their author, who was recently accorded the first Leading Hearts Award by The Methodist Hospital, an award that will henceforth be named the *George P. Noon, M.D. Award*, in honor of its first recipient. I know that Dr. Noon eschews praise as much as he does the limelight, but it always finds him, much as it did his mentor and friend, Dr. DeBakey.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. George P. Noon — a uniquely gifted surgeon, educator, researcher, and inventor — for his tenacious pursuit of excellence, as well as his selflessness, warmth, compassion, integrity, and courage. Thank you, George, you are truly an inspiration — and it is your spirit that will illuminate and imbue the *George P. Noon, M.D. Award*, now and in the future.

Very truly yours,
William L. Winters Jr., M.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal



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Dr. Michael E. DeBakey (lower left), sharing a moment with Dr. George P. Noon (lower right) in 2006.

One of the world's most respected surgeons, **Dr. George P. Noon** has played an integral role in the transplant program at The Methodist Hospital, from its inception in the 1960s. As surgical partner to Dr. Michael DeBakey, Dr. Noon was part of the team that performed many of the world's firsts when organ transplant was new to health care, and he has initiated or participated in many firsts throughout his long career. As a skilled clinician, he has treated countless patients and trained generations of surgeons. His dedication to improving treatment options for patients remains unabated.

The *Leading Hearts Award* — now known as the *George P. Noon, M.D. Award*, in honor of its first recipient — celebrates deserving physicians, community members, or organizations exemplifying outstanding leadership, service, and a long-term commitment to making significant and continuous contributions to advance care in the field of cardiovascular medicine.