

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 4-19

INTRODUCED BY: Montgomery County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Awarding MedChi & Component Membership Posthumously

Whereas, since the 1880s, membership in MedChi has been open to all physicians in Maryland; and

Whereas, in the past, racial discrimination is reported to have played a role in excluding physicians from membership in MedChi and/or its components; and

Whereas, it was not uncommon for the reason for not approving membership was based on the segregated policies of society meeting venues; and

Whereas, MedChi denounces discrimination of any kind, and, when it is learned that discrimination played a role in not allowing a licensed physician to be a member of MedChi and the components, MedChi must take action to right the wrong done to the physician, even if the physician is no longer living; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi develop a process for awarding membership posthumously when it is learned that discrimination played a role in the decision to exclude a licensed Maryland physician from MedChi membership; and be it further

Resolved, that Webster Sewell, M.D., who died in 1998 at the age of 96 and was the only African American physician in Montgomery County at the time he was denied membership “in the county medical association because he could not be served at their dinner meetings at local country clubs,”¹ be awarded emeritus membership in MedChi and the component posthumously.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 28, 2019.

Sources

1. Palmer, Laura-Leigh. (2009). *Images of America: Wheaton*. San Francisco, CA: Arcadia Publishing.
2. Lachin, PhD, Teresa, “Webster Sewell and the Struggle for Equal Care.” Montgomery County Historical Society Annual Meeting, 26 January 2019, Montgomery College, Rockville, MD.