

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 1-13

INTRODUCED BY: Board of Trustees

SUBJECT: Presidential Medal of Freedom

1 Whereas, Dr. R Adams Cowley is known as the “Father of Trauma Medicine” and considered a
2 pioneer in both emergency medicine and the treatment of shock trauma; and
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4 Whereas, Dr. Cowley’s vision and ideas were cultivated while serving as a battlefield surgeon
5 during World War II; and
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7 Whereas, Dr. Cowley became a thoracic surgeon at the University of Maryland and after years of
8 research in the 1950’s founded the nation’s first and longest running Shock Trauma Center at the
9 University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore; and
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11 Whereas, Dr. Cowley organized a statewide system incorporating 50 hospitals, 10 trauma centers,
12 450 ambulances and a fleet of evacuation helicopters; and
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14 Whereas, Maryland’s superb system stands as an international model for emergency medicine; and
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16 Whereas, Dr. Cowley also invented the “Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services,” the
17 first statewide coordinated EMS system of care in the US; and
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19 Whereas, Dr. Cowley started the first injured civilian helicopter transport with assistance of the
20 Maryland State Police Aviation Division; therefore be it
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22 Resolved, that MedChi submit a resolution to the AMA 2013 Annual Meeting requesting that the
23 AMA write a letter of support to President Obama on behalf of Dr. R Adams Cowley to
24 posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
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27 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its April 27, 2013 meeting.