



2019 MEDICAL

WALL OF FAME

5:00 pm Reception

5:30 pm Welcome

*Carmelo Hernandez, M.D.
San Luis Valley Health Chief Medical Officer*

5:35 pm Induction of Honorees

John Haskin, M.D.

*Jim Robbins and Ted Morrison
Presenters*

Robert Royce Kelly, M.D.

*Grant Hurley
Presenter*

Connie Jean Buhr Poole, L.P.N.

Ricardo Velasquez, Presenter

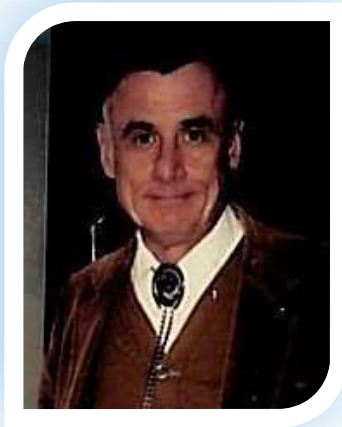
Rosalina Velasquez, R.N., M.S.N.

Julie Geiser, Presenter

Roger Vigil

Kelly S. Gurule, Presenter

JOHN HASKIN. M.D.



John Haskin was born January 20, 1925 in Owatonna, Minnesota, and grew up in Sandwich, Illinois, where his father was the superintendent of schools.

He graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago, and moved to Denver, Colorado, to complete his residency at St. Luke's Hospital.

In 1953, he married Charlotte Griffith and moved to Center, Colorado, to practice general medicine and surgery. They had two children, David and Carolyn, now deceased. Charlotte died on December 19, 1979. In 1980, Dr. Haskin married Glenna Anderson, a teacher at Center High School.

Dr. Haskin's interests and community involvements include playing the trumpet and trombone in a Dixieland band. He was an active member of the United Methodist Church, a member of the church choir, and was also a member of Templegate #128 Masonic Lodge.

A highly respected family physician and surgeon, he dedicated 32 years of his distinguished medical career to the people of the San Luis Valley.

His medical contributions include, but are not limited to, being the past president of the Colorado Medical Society and being named the first medical coordinator of Hospice Del Valle in 1982. Dedications include the John W. Haskin Medical Building in Center, Colorado; the Center Elementary School was renamed Haskin Elementary School; and the medical office building in Center was dedicated as the John W. Haskin Medical Building, which he donated to Saguache County in 1974. The Monte Vista Community Hospital also dedicated the west medical wing to Dr. Haskin in his honor.

Although he was well-educated and talented as a physician, those who knew him personally knew he had a heart of gold and a soul of a country doctor. Dr. Haskin left his family, friends and community on September 15, 1985, doing what he loved – caring for his patients.

ROBERT ROYCE KELLY, M.D.



Robert Royce Kelly was born the eldest of 10 children on November 14, 1940 in Alamosa, Colorado. He grew up on the family farm southwest of Alamosa and attended a three-room county school through the eighth grade, going on to graduate from La Jara High School in 1958.

He married his high school sweetheart Martha Ann Westbrook on April 15, 1959. He continued working on the farm with his father for three years, until January 1962. That year, potatoes sold for .75 cents per 100 pounds, and he said, "This is not going to work."

He attended Adams State College and Brigham Young University, graduating in 1967. Since there were no student loans at that time, he worked part time during school and full-time each summer in order to pay tuition, while raising three children. He attended medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico, graduating in 1972.

As a requirement for licensure in the states, he attended a year of postgraduate training at Hahnemann Medical College in Pennsylvania. He completed an internship and residency in Pediatrics at the University Of Tennessee College of Medicine, graduating in 1976, and practiced the following two years in the Emergency Department of the Children's Hospital at the University of Tennessee.

In 1979, he returned home to join the clinic in Alamosa. Having had experience with obstetrics during his training, and feeling that obstetrics and pediatrics were a natural fit, he began what soon became a busy practice combining both. Over the ensuing two-plus decades, he delivered a generation of babies, and provided care and reassurance to generations of children and young parents as well. For most of these years, he was the only pediatrician in the Valley and had responsibility of medical oversight for the hospital's newborn nursery.

Dr. Kelly's reputation as an exceptionally well-trained and skilled clinician was rapidly established among patients, peers and nursing staff at the hospital. He was known for his kindness, compassion and dedication to his patients and his work. The stories of his mentoring and teaching of the nursing staff in the hospital are legendary. When asked today of their recollections of working with Dr. Kelly, those nurses describe him as "compassionate," "great teacher," "patient," "down to earth," "treated everyone with respect and as an equal," and "knowledgeable."

He is also remembered for his quiet and calm demeanor, even in the most tense and critical situations. The following recollection from one of his peers sums it up best: "When you think of a doctor, you think of Dr. Kelly."

Dr. Kelly retired from practice in 2005. He continues to serve actively in the LDS Church and, with his wife Martha, volunteered for two years of mission service in Mexico City. They currently live in Alamosa, and have six children, 22 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

CONNIE JEAN BUHR POOLE, L.P.N.



Born in 1955 in Alamosa, Colorado, Connie Jean Buhr Poole grew up in Mesita, Colorado and graduated from Centauri High School. After attending Adams State College for a year, she received her nursing degree at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado in August of 1977, and started her nursing career in the fall of that year after marrying her husband, Tom Poole. She remained in Alamosa for her entire nursing career.

Her first job was working as a med/surg nurse at the Alamosa Hospital. She worked under Mrs. Lee and Hospital Administrator Eldon Reece. After the birth of her first child, she worked nights and weekends in the Emergency Room, often being the only LPN on staff at the time. She remembers when emergencies arose, she would call the doctor on call, as well as X-ray, the laboratory or a nurse from the floor if necessary.

While working part-time in the Emergency Room, she started working at Valley-Wide Health Systems part time as well, and after the birth of her second child, started working at Valley-Wide full time under Shirley Kolkman. At Valley-Wide, she was the primary nurse for a number of doctors, including Don Jacobs, John and Carolyn Shepherd, Kris Steinburg, Charlene Abernathy, Linda Faye, Shannon Mc Laughlin, and Elizabeth Kinney.

Following the birth of her third child, she worked as the Health Coordinator at Alamosa Head Start for a school year. While there, she raised funds to award a scholarship to a graduating senior pursuing a medical career who had themselves been a Head Start student. She also spent a year working as the school nurse at Ortega Middle School and Alamosa High School.

At the end of the school year, she was asked by Valley-Wide Health Systems to be a clinic manager for the San Luis Health Center, Moffat Health Center, Guadalupe Health Center and later the Sierra Blanca Medical Center. She closed out her career as a medical professional by working as a prescription refill nurse.

Ms. Poole retired in 2011 after 34 years of nursing. She continues to give actively back to others in the San Luis Valley community. She is very involved with her church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamosa. She enjoys making and giving homemade blankets and quilts to children in the hospital. She has been married for 40-plus years to her husband, Tom, and has three children, Nathan, Sarah and Amiee, and five grandchildren.

ROSALINA VELASQUEZ, R.N., M.S.N.



Rosalina Velasquez was born November 22, 1933 and was raised in the San Luis Valley. She traveled to California to study nursing at the St. Vincent College of Nursing from 1955-1958, earning her Registered Nurse diploma in 1958. Ms. Velasquez then studied at the Colorado University from 1959-1961, earning her Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

Her career saw her working for several years as a nurse with the Santa Fe County Health Department until 1969, as a supervising nurse with the Santa Fe Family Service from 1965-1969, and as a public health outreach nurse with the Presbyterian Medical Services from 1969-1973.

Returning to Colorado, Ms. Velasquez attended Colorado University from 1978-1980, earning her Master's degree in Nursing.

Here in the San Luis Valley, she was the supervising nursing instructor from 1973-1994 for the Licensed Practical Nurse program at the San Luis Valley Area Vocational School – later named Trinidad State Jr. College. She was admired by hundreds of successful students, and is respected by her peers and physicians.

A former student stated, "Rosalina was the quintessential nursing instructor. She epitomized the professionalism with every action and direction she shared with her students. This former student strove daily to live up to her standards of learning everything possible so that I could give the best possible care to my patients. She instilled in me that you could be very professional in your dress, demeanor and actions and yet still be caring and compassionate. She also instilled in me the notion that you never stop learning. Graduation was just a step in a lifelong learning process of caring for people. I would not be the nurse I am today without her leadership and belief in me. Because of her leadership, I continued my studies, ultimately achieving a Master's in Nursing Science."

Rosalina Velasquez retired July 1, 1994. She had three sisters: Connie Velasquez and Marcia Miles, both now deceased, and Alamosa resident Tracey Morrison.

ROGER VIGIL



Roger Vigil was born in Alamosa on Nov. 21, 1935. He lived in Alamosa his whole life, going to school here. He met his wife Tillie in Alamosa while she was working at a café. They were married for 54 years and had three daughters. Before working at the hospital, he served in the Air Force as a paratrooper.

Mr. Vigil began working at the Alamosa Community Hospital in 1959 as a janitor under Bill Westerman. He worked his way through the ranks, eventually taking the position of the Director of Building Services.

He saw many changes during his tenure and had a significant part in making many of them a reality, including being in charge of construction of the helipad on the top of the hospital in 1992.

He retired from the hospital when it was still known as the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in 1999. His legacy for the hospital is the phrase heard around the hospital to this day: "When Roger was here..."

Mr. Vigil was selected to receive the Adamson Award in 2005 for his dedication, expertise and commitment to excellence in maintaining and improving the hospital facilities for 40 years, and for his continuing service to the SLV Regional Medical Center as a Foundation Board member from 2003 until his death in 2010.

He was also very active in the community. He first got his private pilot license, then his commercial pilot license. He helped to open Splashland, and was active in the Catholic Church and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed traveling, and traveled all over the world, including Canada, Spain and Mexico. He also loved to fish and fished all over the state of Colorado.

***THE MEDICAL
WALL OF FAME COMMITTEE
THANKS YOU
FOR ATTENDING
THE 2019 MEDICAL
WALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY***