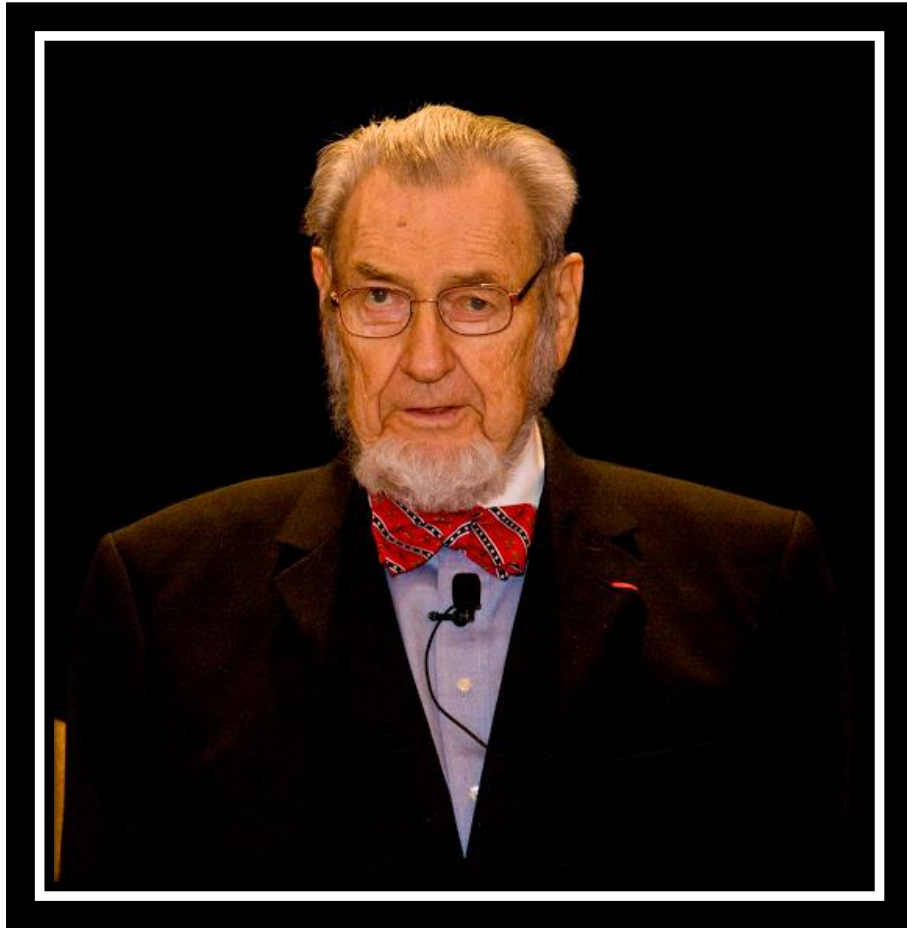


The Nation Bids Farewell



In Memory of C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, the Surgeon General
who Changed the Face of HIV/AIDS

“In early 1981... AIDS entered the consciousness of the public health service quietly, gradually, and without fanfare. ...if there ever were a disease made for a surgeon general it was AIDS... Each of us must keep HIV/AIDS from becoming the forgotten epidemic.”

C. Everett Koop, The Early Days of AIDS, As I Remember Them



As the nation and indeed the world says goodbye to Dr. C. Everett Koop, the 13th Surgeon General of the U.S., and one of the greatest public health leaders of all time, the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research expresses its gratitude for Dr. Koop's leadership from the first days of the AIDS crisis to the end of Dr. Koop's life when he advocated for accelerated HIV testing.

Inspired by his leadership, we created the *C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Public Health Leadership Award* in 2010, intended to honor an individual who has advanced the nation's progress in fighting this disease through distinguished service, vision and leadership. Since Dr. Koop epitomized all these qualities, the Forum was proud to bestow the first award to him during the *2010 National Summit on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention and Access to Care* in Washington. As part of that awards ceremony, Dr. Koop gave an hour-long and very candid address to the HIV/AIDS community reflecting his lessons learned over 25 years in combating HIV/AIDS. What he said about the early days of AIDS and his challenges as Surgeon General only underscore his courage, common sense and commitment to roll up his sleeves and make a difference.

Since Dr. Koop received the first *C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Public Health Leadership Award*, the Forum bestowed the 2011 award to Dr. Koop's long-time colleague and friend, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and in 2012 to Congressman Henry A. Waxman. In 2013 and beyond, the Forum will continue this tradition of awarding a distinguished leader in the HIV/AIDS field with this award to honor Dr. Koop's memory and keep his spirit alive.

Dr. Koop's lecture, *The Early Days of AIDS, As I Remember Them*, is available through the *Annals of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research*.



"Personally, and to many of us in the medical and public health fields, Dr. Koop is a courageous hero...His contributions to the health of the Nation and the courageous manner in which he pursued this goal, from the war on smoking through the AIDS epidemic...stands as testimony to the enormous impact that he has had on this Nation and world.... Chick Koop.... always seemed to do what was the most correct, honorable, and appropriate thing for the health of the Nation and the world. This is his legacy."

-Anthony S. Fauci, *Presentation of the C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Health Leadership Award to VADM C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, 13th U.S. Surgeon General*

"No disease has affected this country like HIV/AIDS. No public health leader has impacted the trajectory of an epidemic like former Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop...Twenty-odd years ago, our nation's most memorable Surgeon General put in motion a plan to demystify and de-stigmatize what was then a deadly, horrific disease... While others were loath to refer to the virus and its disease by name, Dr. Koop led the campaign in true public health style."

-Veronica Miller, *Recognizing Leadership, Courage and Hands-on Engagement: Relearning Lessons 30 Years Later*

Chick Koop ultimately became a dear friend, but I first met him back in the 1980s, when I was a reporter at US News & World Report writing about HIV/AIDS, and he came to the magazine to have lunch with the top editors one day. He arrived in his crisp white Public Health Service uniform and instantly seemed in command. Randy Shilts's book, *And the Band Played On*, had recently been released, and at one point the subject of the book and its intense criticism of the US policy response to the AIDS epidemic came up. Koop demurred and said he hadn't read the book. "But you came off very well in it!" I said. "Well, I read those parts!" Koop replied, causing much laughter around the table.



The episode was vintage Chick. As Dartmouth alumni, we went on to "bond" and to know each other well. Chick was a complicated person, as are we all. He was undeniably a hero in so many ways; a champion of the health needs of children; a brilliant and passionate surgeon; above all, a physician who cared for his "patients," whether they were the ones in front of him or the millions who would suffer if those who could make their lives better didn't act on that responsibility. He also had an ego and a drive to be heard, noticed and understood. We all deserve to be judged on what we do at our best to serve others, and on that score, Chick was incomparably committed and brave, risking intense opprobrium to do what he knew was right for the public's health. I and so many others are grateful to have known him, humbled by his example, and inspired to carry on his memory to advance the public's health.

Susan Dentzer
Health Affairs
Chevy Chase, MD, USA

Dr. Koop was a great public health advocate who saw HIV coming before the rest of the world had a clue- and he took bold unprecedented actions to increase awareness and safety. The "letter" was his signature action, but the totality of his contributions is incredible. Most people I know when asked "who is the Surgeon General?" respond that it is Dr. Koop or they don't know. He is an example of courage and action like no other, and he did it under Pres Reagan.

John Bartlett
Johns Hopkins
Baltimore, MD

As a reporter who covered his tenure as Surgeon General and later, as a public relations counselor who worked with him on AIDS issues, I always had the utmost respect for Dr. Koop. He could always be counted on for honesty, integrity, candor and scientific reasoning -- especially in the face of political pressure. He was not only the nation's doctor, but the nation's umpire: he called them the way he saw them, no matter how unpopular the opinion. Dr. Koop's passing is a reminder of what we have missed since he left the glare of the public spotlight, and a clarion call to what the nation's doctor should be as we face the challenges of the future. Rest in peace, Dr. Koop!

Aaron Cohen

Dr. Koop was instrumental in my initiation to the HIV community. His inspired leadership marked the beginning of my 20+ years of service to the AIDS community. He lives on in the memory of all of us "older" AIDS activists!

Cori Yaeger
Ohio AIDS Coalition

Dr. C. Everett Koop was best person (or thing) to come out of the very bleak Reagan administration. One of the few that should live forever.

Condolences, Chris

*Chris Nelson
Loveland, Colorado*

Dr. Koop, you should know that the bilateral inguinal hernioplasty still holds together after 51 years. My daily exercise routine includes 100 sit-ups. I only hope that a similar procedure done by another surgeon on my own then 2-month-old son will hold as long.
-- KHR

Kenneth Ryesky

Dr. Koop was a great influence on public health in the US and the world. His career as US Surgeon General was exemplary, and we all owe him a great deal. He was a kind and thoughtful man, and I appreciated it that he always treated me, a much more junior colleague, with respect. It was a pleasure to know him and to have an opportunity to work with him.

*Steven N. Blair
University of South Carolina*

Our family would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Koop family - Dr. Koop was a legendary public health physician and leader, and he will be greatly missed.

*Alan Greenberg
GWU
Washington, DC*

How blessed we all have been to have had Dr. Koop as our Surgeon General but also as a model health professional filled with compassion and commitment to advancing the health of all Americans. When I think of Dr. Koop a big smile comes across my face because I see a man of utmost integrity, conviction, principles, and a true champion of "our right to know" about how to protect our health. All scientists have great admiration for Dr. Koop in his dedication to listening to what science says, even if the message may offend people. A person like Dr. Koop comes once a generation. We are most grateful to him for the many ways he touched so many lives. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know him when Jeanne White Ginder (Ryan White's mother) and I presented him in 2010 the Ryan White Distinguished Leadership Award, an award from the Indiana University Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention. Following the award, RCAP was able to raise private funding to support, for in perpetuity, the Surgeon General C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Research grant for doctoral student research in HIV/AIDS prevention. Thanks, Dr. Koop, for your courageous conviction to the promotion of the health of all Americans. You are a "man of ages."

*-Bill Yarber
Senior Director
Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention*

Dr. Koop will long be remembered for his deeply inspiring leadership.

Cornelius Baker



Dr. Koop was an inspiration to me and my decision to attend medical school. During my high school years when he was the surgeon general, I admired his honesty and courage to speak the truth. It was a great honor to meet him personally and have my picture taken with him in 2010. Public servants should look to him as an example in leadership.

*Michael Harbour
Palo Alto, CA*



The Nation Bids Farewell: In Memory of C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD

My first meeting with Chick Koop was a chance encounter in 1963 at a College of Surgeons meeting in Washington, D.C. I was serving a 2 year service obligation at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, following general surgical training in Boston. I had planned further subspecialty training in Boston, but the draft for the Korean War intervened.

My meeting with Dr. Koop was both a career and a life changer. Chick took time to chat about my career plans and to describe the pediatric surgery training program he had developed in Philadelphia. I had some inkling of his own accomplishments because I was previously aware that he was a "Medal of Honor" recipient from France and that he had been active and highly respected by pediatric surgeons in multiple European countries. He offered me a fellowship with some federal funding, and he spent considerable time discussing possibilities for my future. I had enjoyed career discussions with surgeons previously, but Chick Koop actually promised he would support my career development over the long term, and he kept that promise. More than a great surgeon, Chick, for me, was really a great man and a great friend.

My shock study projects from Walter Reed were continued for one year at the University of Pennsylvania's surgical research lab, while waiting for the fellowship opening, and some of that lab experience was later incorporated into our clinical projects at CHOP. I found Chick to be gifted both as a superb surgical artist and as a teacher. I loved every minute of my experience under his tutelage, and I am ever grateful for his offer of a faculty position at CHOP and Penn following my fellowship.

I became the fifth member of the surgical team at CHOP when I joined the faculty in 1966, but over the next three years our numbers decreased to three. Chick was very busy with multiple academic, community, and social projects, and he referred a lot of surgical cases my way. I loved it. My wife Beverly and I were fortunate to live near the Koops, and we grew in love and respect for Betty and Chick. We also developed admiration, though our contact was limited, with the Koop children--Allen, Norman, David, and Betsy. David's accidental death from a New Hampshire climbing accident in 1968 was a life-changing tragedy for all.

As time went on, Chick became more and more involved with national and international issues, both surgical and ethical. He cared deeply about his religious and family life, and he challenged then current ideas about The Right to Live, The Right to Die, the title of one of his publications, and about abortion. I didn't always agree with Chick's positions, but I always respected his courage in taking a stand for what he believed.

Chick's real strength of character was revealed in his later Surgeon General days. When he took the lead in issues related to smoking, birth control, sex education, and AIDS treatment he was challenged by some for inconsistency with positions he had advocated before appointment. I have always been inspired by his response to the effect that "I am Surgeon General representing all people of this country, not just a small group who happen to agree with my personal views." He truly placed duty and obligation before self and personal interests, and I have always thought his response was magnificent.

Though he was a great clinical surgeon for children, I believe C. Everett Koop's lasting and unforgettable legacy relates to the many years that followed in his service to our nation's public health. I believe it rare for anyone to remain as productive and to contribute as much Chick Koop did right through his 96 years. We revere him, we love Chick and his family, and we will remember always his unique contribution to the health of our people and to all people.

With love and deep sympathy to Cora, Chick's wife and companion following Betty's death, and to the families of Norman, Allen, and Betsy,

*Dale G. Johnson, M.D.
Professor Emeritus, Surgery and Pediatrics
University of Utah School of Medicine*

I was young when Dr. Koop mailed information to every household in America, but that really caught my attention. Years later I was working in the HIV/AIDS Prevention efforts in a tri-state area. I am thankful for his bravery. His gesture made us all stop...and take a look. What a legacy. May you take solace in knowing he used his life achievements to educate others and save lives for generations to come.

*Stephanie Fisher
Grand Chain, IL*

Dr. Koop set the bar on how our national government should and must respond to the needs of America's communities and citizens. His last public appearance before the HIV community was an example of his commitment to sharing his ideals about how to achieve and maintain the health of our nation.

Marsha Martin
Urban Coalition for HIV/Prevention Services



It was a privilege to meet Dr. Koop in 2010. My condolences to his family and many friends.

Ben Hauschild
Forum for Collaborative HIV Research
Washington, DC

My deep admiration of Dr. Koop comes from my own personal experience standing up to specious claims of dietary supplement safety that led to serious injuries and death. Dr. Koop's outspoken advocacy for people's health, no matter what the political and personal cost, was an inspiration for those who followed like myself.

Steve Heymsfield, MD
Executive Director
Pennington Biomedical

I can think of no other Surgeon General who was more admired for serving as an advocate for individual health and well-being.

Nancy Price

We have posted a tribute to Dr. Koop on the Shape Up America! website (www.shapeup.org) and embedded in the tribute is a link to a photo album for his 95th birthday party that was held at the Koshland Science Museum in Washington DC in 2011. Those of us in the field of obesity have Dr. Koop to thank for his remarkable leadership in raising awareness of obesity as a health issue. He founded Shape Up America! in 1994, well before the public health community recognized the urgency of the problem. I post this message to you with a heavy heart, but viewing the photo album is cheering. Here is the link:
http://www.shapeup.org/about/gallery_cekbdy.html

Barbara Moore, PhD, FTOS
President and CEO, Shape Up America!
Clyde Part, MT

It's important to appreciate how much courage Dr. Koop showed, both in the tobacco and the HIV arenas. He was willing to use evidence to tell the truth when no one else in leadership positions was. And to this day-decades later-no other surgeon general has followed his lead. A tribute to him. Not the others.

Paul Volberding
UC San Francisco
San Francisco CA/U.S.

The example of his leadership, courage and commitment to his profession and calling will stand uniquely among the highest this nation has seen.

Veronica Miller
Forum for Collaborative HIV Research
Washington, DC

Indeed, a sad passing of a public health hero. In the earliest and darkest days of AIDS in America, Surgeon General Koop held a town hall meeting in the main lobby of San Francisco General. I will never forget his powerful voice of compassion, common sense, and courage. He inspired all of us to step up and do the hard things that needed to be done, and to advocate strongly for the only prevention tools we had at our disposal in that era.

He had a powerful impact on so many dimensions of health, but to me it was his life-long advocacy for the social justice of health equity that stands strongest - in his words, "I am the Surgeon General of the heterosexuals and the homosexuals, of the young and the old, of the moral and the immoral, the married and the unmarried. I don't have the luxury of deciding which side I want to be on."

My thoughts and prayers are with the Koop family and all who are touched by his passing.

Sincerely,

Julie Gerberding, MD MPH
former Director CDC

I had the great honor of meeting Dr. Koop in 2010, as part of the 2010 National Summit on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention and Access to Care.

On paper, it's easy to see how Dr. Koop has touched the American public and improved public health. However, it wasn't until I heard others speaking with him about how he had personally changed their lives. One attendee at the Summit leaned in to tell Dr. Koop that he was the reason that this person wanted to become a doctor. Dr. Koop was his inspiration.

I feel honored that I was able to meet such a hero.

Jennifer Crawford
MSLGROUP
Washington, DC

During some of the darkest days of the epidemic and as part of an Administration that tacitly ignored the death and dying, Dr. Koop took a stand for public health.

Christine Lubinski
Washington, DC

I was a fellow at the NIH studying infectious diseases and treating AIDS patients at the time when Dr. Koop was Surgeon General. His compassion, courage and leadership to provide awareness and education to all US citizens about HIV was an inspiration to me and many other health care professionals who were caring for patients stricken with this terrible disease. He is a perfect example of what a US Surgeon General and public health leader should be.

James Rooney
Gilead Sciences



I want to thank Dr Koop for being one of the first major establishment figures who understood that HIV/AIDS was both just a disease and more than a disease. His courage and leadership were exemplary and much-needed. Thank you.

Donna Futterman, MD
Adolescent AIDS Program
Bronx, NY

My condolences.

Erik Lontok
HIV Forum
Washington, DC

I first met Dr. Koop in 1989 when he was still Surgeon General but planning to leave his post. I had the pleasure of taping him for a video tribute honoring his many contributions to public health. That began a 25-year relationship that is one of the highlights of my life. In 1994, Dr. Koop tapped me to help him launch his anti-obesity crusade Shape Up America! and as usual, he trailblazed by elevating obesity as a public health crisis. But one of my greatest honors was to help the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research create the C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Public Health Leadership Award and bestow the first award in 2010 to Dr. Koop. At that award ceremony, almost 500 community leaders and HIV/AIDS advocates from around the country cheered Dr. Koop and gave him a standing ovation that lasted for almost 10 minutes. It was a genuine love fest for a man that everyone in that room considered his or her personal hero. He was my hero and I will always cherish the role he played in my life.



Farewell, Dr. Koop. Your spirit lives on!

*Nancy Glick
MSLGROUP
Washington, DC*

Dr. Koop was an essential leader in the early and dark days of the AIDS epidemic. His clear voice and empathic vision saved many lives at a time when there was no effective treatment and no other senior governmental officials willing to address the burgeoning pandemic. He will be sorely missed.

*Kenneth Mayer
Fenway Health/Harvard Medical School
Boston, Mass*

Robert Besaw
Forum for Collaborative HIV Research

*Joe Burrage
Indiana University School of Nursing
Indianapolis, IN*

Dr. Koop's courageous stance on HIV/AIDS in an administration that for the longest time refused to acknowledge this devastating disease speaks to the caliber of his humanity. The complex, chronic disease gained a lifelong champion in Dr. Koop. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to Dr. Koop's family.

*Nina Mani
Forum for Collaborative HIV Research*

It was such an honor and a real learning experience to be in the audience two years ago to hear Dr. Koop deliver his last academic address specifically describing his 8 years facing the HIV/AIDS epidemic under President Reagan. His courage and tenacity both during that period of time of the epidemic and in delivering that academic address is something I will admire for the rest of my life.

With my sincerest condolences,
David W. Poole

David Poole

View and add to the online comment board

http://www.hivforum.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=801&Itemid=79

Read *The Early Days of AIDS, As I Remember Them* and the associated presentations

<http://hivforumannals.org/index.php/annals/issue/view/19/showToc>

View the C. Everett Koop Award Tribute video

http://www.hivforum.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=350&Itemid=154

View the Forum's C. Everett Koop Award photo gallery

<https://picasaweb.google.com/FCHRphotos/CEverettKoop?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCKCmvqKGosLUjgE&feat=directlink>