

A Tribute to Mark *by Kelly Kinsley, M.D.*

Mark Davis, you were giant of a man and I'm not just referring to your physical stature, it was your heart. You cared about patients, your hospital and about medicine. You cared about your community, your staff, your friends and most deeply, your family.

When I moved to Crescent City in 1994 after completing my Family Practice Residency, Mark had a way of making me feel at home in the hospital and community. He would always have a helpful word or sound advise to share. At the time it felt like he had been in Crescent City for eons with all the wisdom he shared but I was amazed to discover he had only arrived the year before I did.

While I left Crescent City two years later Mark continued on and established himself as a well respected physician and skilled surgeon, an involved supportive member of the medical staff, and a philanthropic community leader. When I returned to the North Coast more than ten years later Mark and I reconnected and I discovered the same caring man. He had a passion for the practice of medicine, wanting to preserve the autonomy of physicians to serve their patients free of the self interest of corporate interference. Mark had given countless hours to the local Independent Physicians Association, the Humboldt / Del Norte Medical Society and the California Medical Association as a patient and physician advocate.

Greg Duncan, M.D. a long time colleague and friend said, "Mark Davis did more for physician and patient advocacy than anyone I have known. He was a man ahead of his time. He saw the oncoming assault on the practice of medicine long before the rest of us did. Mark never wavered from the principle that patient care decisions must remain with caregivers. He educated our medical staff on state law which bars the corporate practice of medicine and provides for physician self governance. Mark did all of this while raising a family and running a solo practice in a medically underserved area, and still finding the time to establish a charity which saved the local public swimming pool from closing."

Doctors Donna Sund-Caldwell and Kevin Caldwell who were very close to Mark and his family said, "The loss of Mark Davis was a significant blow to our entire family. We knew him for many years, primarily as a devoted family man. He was a very involved father to three talented children, who grew up as friends with our own three kids. He was an avid participant in our two-family scuba dive trips throughout the world, a proud grandfather to two little girls in Germany, and one dedicated to making sure everyone was happy and doing well within his own household."

Mark we will all miss your leadership and your friendship that all came from a giant heart that cared. All the people you cared about will miss you, your patients, your community, your staff, your friends and most certainly your family.

Greg Duncan put it best when he said this about you Mark, "You cannot be replaced, and the example you set will continue to inspire the physicians you represented and the patients you treated."

