



## TED WELTON M.D. August 30, 1925—February 26, 2019

*by John Disiere, M.D.*

Ted was born August 30, 1925 in Red Oak, Iowa, the oldest of three children born to Clarence and Beryl Welton. When Ted was nine years of age, at the height of the great depression, another tragedy occurred. Ted's father became gravely ill and was hospitalized with little hope for recovery. His father was diagnosed with advanced TB. (After listening to Ted's description, which he witnessed, of the removal of his father's vagus nerve to collapse the infected lung lobe, hard to understand how he ever went into medicine.)

Ted took on the role of head of the family, standing in bread and milk lines and taking on odd jobs to help his mother while she took in laundry and scrubbed floors to support the family. Ted's father eventually recovered and was able to return home from the sanitarium and thereafter was employed as a mail clerk on the railroad.

Ted graduated from East High School in Sioux City, Iowa in 1943. He was not quite old enough to join the Armed Forces, which he was very anxious to do.

Recognizing that he had a restless teenager on his hands for the summer his father wisely suggested that Ted go to the employment office as there were apparently jobs available in road construction. Ted soon found himself in a military plane, outfitted with metal seats, bound for Fairbanks, Alaska. Ted worked on the Alaska- Canadian (AlCan) highway until he suffered a major appendicitis attack and underwent emergency surgery. He was sent back to Iowa for recuperation. During his recuperation he attended Morningside College in Sioux Falls with mathematics as his major, and his goal was to become an engineer.

In May of 1944 he was inducted into the U.S. Army his MOS was Clerk Typist. From Ft. Dodge, IA he was sent to Carlisle Barracks, PA and was promoted to the rank of corporal. He subsequently attended Officer Candidate School For the Medical Administrative Corps and upon completion in 1945 was awarded 2nd Lt bars. The following day he was made Commanding Officer of a hospital detail. He departed on a troop ship for Japan in Dec. 1945. The only action he reported as seeing was the ongoing poker game below decks. On returning to the U.S. in 1946 he was assigned to Ft. Lawton, WA as the CO of a hospital detachment. While at Ft. Lawton, he had two life changing experiences: the first was a suggestion by one of the staff doctors that he might consider medicine as a career; second was a lovely young woman who would become his first wife and the mother of five of his children.

After mustering out of the Army in Jan. 1947 Ted took advantage of the G.I. Bill to continue his undergraduate studies with the goal of admission to medical school. He attended Tulsa University and while there he joined the debate team. The team made a road trip to the West

Coast, debating at various colleges and universities along the way. The team travelled down Hwy 101 toward S.F. and one of the towns they passed through was Eureka and his first visit to the Humboldt Bay Region.

Following his time at T.U. he gathered more credits at Univ. of Colorado in Boulder, CO. He was subsequently accepted to the Univ. of Iowa School of Medicine and graduated with his doctorate in 1953.

Ted proceeded to Boston following his med school graduation where he served his internship. He decided to specialize in Internal Medicine and was accepted into the training program of the Public Health Service Hospital on the Presidio in San Francisco.

There are interesting stories/theories about how Ted decided to move to Eureka to practice. The one I like best is that it was the furthest away from any place likely to suffer a nuclear attack therefore likely little fallout. He moved here 1958 and maintained his own practice until 2002. He continued to work as a contract doc with the Pelican Bay Prison system until 2013 when he finally retired completely.

Ted and his wife Sharon had a son in 1970 and Ted adopted Sharon's two sons from a previous marriage, bringing the grand total to eight, seven sons and one daughter. It was a big joke for years even a license plate saying eight was enough.

Sharon said Ted loved camping and water skiing with the whole crew and patiently helmed the ski boat.

Ted was an avid reader and often recommended books and enjoyed discussing them. He also loved music and had a marvelous deep bass voice. He performed with the HSU Chorale and California Redwoods Chorale. He toured in Europe and the British Isles with the CRC. He and his wife Sharon had common love of music.

During my last lunch with Ted he spoke of how much he liked his fellow doctors and how much he had benefited from their care. He mentioned so many and I want them to know and hope I do not miss any. In case you do not see your name due to my poor memory just know how much he appreciated you.

He was especially thankful to Dr. Beth Abels his internist -- Robert Lock and David Ploss his cardiologists--- Ed Emmons his orthopedist back surgeon — Donald Iverson neurology ----- Michael Palmer surgery---THE DR. WHO GAVE HIM THE PAIN MEDS SO HE COULD GET HOME FROM ST.LOUIS.

Lastly a lovely thought that Ted's wife Sharon requests: I give you this one thought to keep. I am with you still, I do not sleep Do not think of me as gone, I am with you still in each new dawn