

It's Doctors' Day

Today is Doctors' Day (always March 30). It provides a time for people to show appreciation to the doctors who care for them or their loved ones. That makes it very important for Life Care and Life Care at Home, as well as American Lifestyles, for physicians – especially those who serve as our medical directors – are integral players in our service delivery system.

The first Doctors' Day observance was March 30, 1933, in Winder, Georgia. The idea came from Eudora Brown Almond, wife of Dr. Cha Almond, and the date was the anniversary of the first use of general anesthetic in surgery. On March 30, 1842, Dr. Crawford Long of Barrow County, Georgia, used ether to remove a tumor from a patient's neck. The Barrow County Medical Society Auxiliary proclaimed the day Doctors' Day, which was celebrated by mailing cards to physicians and their wives, and placing flowers on the graves of deceased doctors, including Dr. Long. Following action by Congress, President George Bush signed a resolution designating March 30 as National Doctors' Day, and the first one country-wide was formally celebrated in 1991.

People familiar with the Bible will remember that God was really the first to use anesthesia during surgery. He put Adam into a deep sleep before He removed a rib to make Eve.

All of us should be involved in a healing ministry – and that is the daily opportunity we have in our company. The Book of James instructs us to pray for one another's healing. Sometimes, it's hard to know how to pray for someone who is suffering. But we can confidently pray for healing, knowing the outcome is in God's hands.

--Beecher Hunter