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## TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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### **LARRY KARRH, M.D., NAMED FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR**

*ARLINGTON, TEXAS* — Larry Karrh, M.D., of San Antonio, Texas, has been awarded the highest award among family doctors in Texas by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Karrh received the 2009 Texas Family Physician of the Year award during TAFP’s 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington, Texas, on July 25. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary family physicians throughout Texas, and a panel of TAFP members chooses one as the family physician of the year.

In his acceptance speech at the Awards Lunch, Dr. Karrh told the audience about his experiences as a family physician. “Family medicine is rewarding. It’s also demanding, but where else in life can you experience the joy of a birth, the miracle of unexpected cure, the satisfaction of helping multiple families, while having the honor of helping a patient leave this world, all in the same day?”

He continued, speaking on the work going on in state capitols and Washington, D.C., to “redefine, reengineer and fully dissect” the health care industry. “As they do so, my prayer is that they will fully recognize the added value, compassion, skills and expertise brought to the industry by family medicine. Furthermore, that they would appropriately, judiciously, fairly and fully reward the skills, knowledge and quality of our specialty.”

Dr. Karrh practiced for 27 years in Plainview, Texas, first in solo practice (19 years), then in Covenant Medical Group in the Covenant Family Healthcare Center (eight years). He has served on the clinical faculty of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program in San Antonio since 2003.

Dr. Karrh was awarded his medical degree by the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1972 and completed a family medicine residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

Todd Thames, M.D., program director at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program, described Dr. Karrh as the “quintessential family physician” in a nomination letter. “Throughout his career he has incorporated obstetric care, newborn care, child and adolescent medicine, sports medicine, adult medicine, and nursing home and end-of-life care into his practice.”

“He is a true healer in every sense—physically, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically,” Thames continued, adding that Dr. Karrh “takes extra time to make sure his patients are not only taken care of appropriately, but extraordinarily.”

Throughout his career, Dr. Karrh has held leadership positions in his local medical society in Hale and Kendall counties, served on the Board of Directors for local hospitals, and provided medical coverage for area high schools and colleges in Plainview and San Antonio, most recently as the primary physician for athletes of Trinity University in San Antonio. As an active member of his church, he has served as chairman for the Budget and Personnel committees and has taught religious education classes for most of his adult life. Dr. Karrh assumed leadership positions in the Hale County Stock Show and Rodeo and now is an integral member of the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo planning committee and medical team.

Dr. Karrh was married for 37 years to his late wife, Patricia Karrh, BSN, RN. They have three children, Kristen, Kevin (wife Jill) and Kara (husband Marc); and three grandchildren, Jordan, Landon and Kasen.

Criteria for the TAFP Physician of the Year award requires that candidates be compassionately dedicated to their patients, active in their communities, and act as a credible, invaluable role model as a professional in the science and art of medicine.

*The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tafp.org](http://www.tafp.org) for more information.*