



Serving His Country and Podiatry

Podiatry's first U.S. Congressman is elected to the *PM* Hall of Fame.

BY PEGGY TRESKY

In 2012, Brad Wenstrup, DPM, became the first podiatrist to serve our nation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected from Ohio's second congressional district, he is now in his third term.

Rep. Wenstrup has quickly made a name for himself in the halls of Congress, serving on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. A veteran of the Iraq War and a colonel in the Army Reserves, he chairs the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. He also is a member of the House Doctors' Caucus.

In 2017, Rep. Wenstrup made national headlines for his heroic actions on a baseball diamond in Northern Virginia when a shooter opened fire during a congressional baseball team practice. Rep. Wenstrup used his surgical training and his experience in treating combat injuries to care for Majority Whip Stephen Scalise (R-LA), who was seriously wounded in the incident.

Perhaps nowhere has Rep. Wenstrup made his influence more keenly felt than in his chosen profession of podiatry. His role in the House of Representatives and the coverage of his work have generated goodwill for podiatry, and he has proven to be a formidable advocate for the profession's priorities.

Rep. Wenstrup introduced the American Podiatric Medical Association's (APMA) VA Provider Equity Act



Dr. Brad Wenstrup

in the House in the 115th Congress and worked tirelessly for its passage alongside APMA members and staff lobbyists, underscoring the importance of providing quality care to veterans.

"It's the weight of the patient that I feel," Rep. Wenstrup told APMA News at the time of his election. "We've got a lot of problems and things we've got to work out. Everyone is concerned about our medical profession as we move forward."

Rep. Wenstrup invited podiatrists to testify before the Subcommittee on Health in 2017, and his office worked closely with APMA Legislative Ad-

vocacy Director and PM Hall of Fame member Benjamin J. Wallner on the strategy for advancing the legislation. "I have the distinct privilege of working with Rep. Wenstrup and his staff on Capitol Hill," Wallner said. "His leadership and commitment to this profession have enabled us to advance legislative and policy goals for the benefit of all podiatric physicians and their patients."

The VA Provider Equity Act passed the House of Representatives on unanimous consent in the summer of 2017. At the time of this writing, it was awaiting consideration in the Senate as part of an omnibus VA bill.

"We've earned [parity] through our education and training," Rep. Wenstrup said. "When I bought a practice in 1986, the retiree was a chiropodist and had his degree three years out of high school. We've really made our names by our [improved] training."

Rep. Wenstrup completed his undergraduate work at the University of Cincinnati and earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. After completing his surgical residency at Thorek Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, Rep. Wenstrup established a private practice in Cincinnati and has been treating patients in southwest Ohio for more than 26 years.

Rep. Wenstrup is board certi-

Continued on page 60



Dr. Wenstrup (from page 59)

fied by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, is a member of APMA, and a fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. He served as the residency director for The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati before entering Congress.

Rep. Wenstrup is a colonel in the Army Reserve. From 2005–2006, he deployed to Iraq, where he served as the podiatrist, chief of surgery, assistant deputy commander, and director of the wound care clinic with the 344th Combat Support Hospital. In addition to treating U.S. troops, the 344th was responsible for detainee healthcare throughout the Iraqi theater, with the heart of the mission taking place at Abu Ghraib Prison Hospital. Rep. Wenstrup is currently assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army Reserve as a medical policy advisor. During his time in Congress, he fulfills his Army Reserve duties by serving at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Rep. Wenstrup lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Monica, and their son, Brad Jr.

colleague. I can think of no one more deserving to be inducted into the Podiatry Management Hall of Fame.

Scott A. Crampton, DPM

Brad Wenstrup is a close, dear friend. I have had the privilege and honor to know Brad since 1981, when we both matriculated into the Wm.

When he was called to serve for active duty, he went to report and they said he was not needed the first time. He was called back a few months later and was sent to Abu Ghraib Hospital, where he served for 90 days. Brad did such a great job that he became the head of the hospital. He put on a great front that the

“Congressman Wenstrup is an incredible asset to the podiatric profession.”—Christina

Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine. Following our graduation in 1985, we were both selected into the same surgical residency at Thorek Hospital & Medical Center, under the direction and leadership of Dr. Charles L. Jones and Dr. John Venson.

Brad has always been a leader. He was our class president and student body president while we were at Scholl, and later became a board member of our alumni association. His leadership and “love of country” led him to join the U.S. Army Reserve. Following the tragedy of 9/11, Brad spent a year in Iraq as “Chief of Sur-

human tragedy did not affect him; however, during later discussions, I think the experience really took a toll on him. Bottom line, he is a wonderful, caring, loving person.

John Grady, DPM

I’ve known Brad for 34 years as a former student and colleague. I believe he is a born leader, as demonstrated by his being class president, president of the alumni Association, chief of surgery at Abu Ghraib Hospital, earner of the Bronze Star, father, and now a Congressman. Brad has worn his faith outwardly in his excellent decisions. I used to see him at mass when we’d be at conferences, not using his faith for show or credit, but quietly living it without fanfare and using it to help others in his life as a podiatric surgeon as well as now in politics. Brad has two qualities very unusual in politicians: humility and discipline. We are all better off for knowing Brad, and we are very lucky to have him representing us.

Steven F. Lakamp, DPM

Brad Wenstrup contacted me while still in undergraduate school at The University of Cincinnati, interested in podiatric medicine as a career. I encouraged him and kept in contact with him throughout his years in Chicago for school and residency. Brad wanted to return to Cincinnati and we discussed purchasing a practice in which I had previously worked. Brad is a special person, podiatrist, gentleman, husband, father, brother, and is very close to his family.

When you run into Brad, shake

Continued on page 62

During his time in Congress, he fulfills his Army Reserve duties by serving at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

The following tributes were received on behalf of Dr. Wenstrup :

James R. Christina, DPM, Executive Director/CEO, APMA

Congressman Wenstrup is an incredible asset to the podiatric profession. His leadership in Veteran Affairs issues in the House of Representatives has helped advance podiatrists being classified properly within the VA; but more importantly, his commitment to making sure our veterans get the healthcare benefits they have earned through service to our country is commendable. His heroism displayed in the tragedy on the baseball field in Virginia makes us all proud to have Brad as a podiatric

gery” at the Abu Ghraib field hospital.

Now Brad has taken his leadership skills to Washington DC. Our profession has never before had such a strong, knowledgeable, and friendly voice within the nation’s capital. I look forward to the positive impact he will have upon our profession and our country.

Bill Finn, DPM

In school and during residency in Chicago, Brad was always a classy dresser. He always seemed to date girls with the first name Mary and a second name, i.e.: Mary Pat, or Mary Ann or Mary Fran, so when he had a date, we called her Mary “Fill in the blank”.



Dr. Wenstrup (from page 60)

his hand and congratulate his efforts and you will find the open, friendly, warm, kind, affable, and “down to

Benjamin J. Wallner
Director, Legislative Advocacy & APMAPAC, American Podiatric Medical Association

I have the distinct privilege of

vance legislative and policy goals to the benefit of all podiatric physicians and their patients. This profession stands on the precipice of the most significant advancement in the recognition of podiatric physicians and surgeons in more than a half century thanks to Rep. Wenstrup. He is a truly deserving inductee into the *PM Hall of Fame*. Congratulations Congressman! **PM**

“His leadership and commitment to this profession have and will continue to enable us to advance legislative and policy goals to the benefit of all podiatric physicians and their patients.”—Wallner

earth” gentleman. He is the same “Good Guy” I met many years ago. We are all blessed to have Brad represent our district in Washington, DC

working with Rep. Wenstrup and his staff on Capitol Hill. His leadership and commitment to this profession have and will continue to enable us to ad-



Ms. Tresky is Director of Communications for the APMA.

Honorable Mention

Congratulations to the following podiatrists, alphabetically listed, who received the next highest number of votes in the 34th Annual *Podiatry Management* Lifetime Achievement Award.

Terence Albright, DPM, Chicago, IL
 Jerry Brant, DPM, Brentwood, TN
 H. “Bunny” Brown, DPM, Heber Springs, AR
 Wesley Daniel, DPM, Gainesville, GA
 Chet Evans, DPM, Miami Shores, FL
 Thomas Godfryd, DPM, Birmingham, AL
 John Guiliana, DPM, Hackettstown, NJ
 Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM, Springfield, PA
 Marc Lenet, DPM, Baltimore, MD
 Leonard Levy, DPM, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Kenneth Malkin, DPM, Caldwell, NJ
 John Mattiacci, DPM, Philadelphia, PA

Samuel Mendicino, DPM, Houston, TX
 Nancy Parsley, DPM, Chicago, IL
 Jeffrey Robbins, DPM, Cleveland, OH
 Lee Sanders, DPM, Lebanon, PA
 Harold Schoenhaus, DPM, Philadelphia, PA
 Alan Sherman, DPM, Boca Raton, FL
 Lloyd Smith, DPM, Newton Centre, MA
 Frank Spinosa, DPM Shelter Island, NY
 Kathleen Stone, DPM, Glendale, AZ
 Ross Taubman, DPM, Brentwood, TN
 Harold Vogler, DPM, Tampa, FL
 Stephanie Wu, DPM, North Chicago, IL

Congratulations to the following individuals, alphabetically listed, who received the next highest number of votes in the non-podiatrist category.

Dorothy Cahill-McDonald
 Don Canada
 SuEllen Dercher
 Mary Feeley
 Charles Gibley, Jr., PhD
 Herman Hammerschmidt
 Jason Kraus
 Kevin Kruse
 Chris Mahaffey

Bill Morris
 Moraith North
 Cindy Pezza
 Jimelle Rumberg, PhD
 Mary Pulliam
 Michael Schwartz
 Leonard Thaler
 Alan Tinkleman
 Norman Wallis, PhD