

## Darwood B. Hance 1932 - 2009

### Visionary Leader Steered CAP Through Early Years

LOS ANGELES, CA, March 5 2009 -- Darwood B. Hance, MD, who led the Board of Directors of the Cooperative of American Physicians, Inc. (CAP) for two decades, died earlier this month after a long illness. Dr. Hance will be remembered as a visionary, dynamic, outspoken, and dedicated leader of the organization. He will also be remembered for his sense of humor, evidenced by his story of being called by "the wrong name" for his entire life.

Born February 29, 1932, on the family farm in Minnesota, Dr. Hance's French-Canadian mother thought she was giving him a popular French name, Durwood, "But she misspelled it on my birth certificate, and I'm the only Darwood there is," he said in an interview last year.

Dr. Hance was a large man, both physically and in importance, said J. Michael Wormley, MD, chair of the Mutual Protection Trust (MPT) Board of Trustees. "He will be remembered as a forceful and dynamic leader, a forward thinker, and a dedicated physician who helped CAP grow and become as successful as it is today," Dr. Wormley said.

"Dr. Hance provided the stability and direction through the years and never lost sight of the fact that we are in the business of protecting physicians," said Jim Weidner, CAP's chief executive officer.

Dr. Hance said he always knew he wanted to be a physician and turned down his pioneer grandmother's offer run the family farm. He graduated from the University of Tennessee and trained in radiology at Wayne State University. He served for 10 years in the U.S. Air Force in North Dakota and Michigan.

Dr. Hance moved to Bakersfield in 1968, setting up a radiology group that grew to 16 radiologists. He was a visiting associate professor of radiology at UCLA. Throughout his career he held leadership positions in medical specialty societies, including president and chair of the Board of Representatives of the American College of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Hance joined CAP in its early years, when membership was less than 2,000 physicians. He said he joined because his professional liability insurance premium increased by 340 percent in 1975. "My choice was to leave California or be part of starting a bedpan mutual," he remembered, using a colloquialism for the doctor-owned medical liability protection providers that were created in the 1970s. Dr. Hance became a CAP board member in 1981, and served as the board's chair from 1985 to 2005. In retirement, Dr. Hance and his wife, Helene, lived in Incline Village, Nevada.

His was a steadfast commitment. "I knew we could do the job if we had the right ideas and the right doctors." He called his CAP service, "a labor of love and the most gratifying thing I've ever done."