

October 29, 2004

Dear Nominating Committee,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Carole Miller, MD, as an American Medical Women's Association Local Legend for 2004. A distinguished professor emeritus of neurosurgery at The Ohio State University, in my congressional district, Dr. Miller served twice as interim chair of her department – in 1988-1989 for the Division of Neurosurgery and again for the newly created Department of Neurological Surgery from 2003 until recently, as she now serves as residency director for the department.

Graduating with honors in history from The Ohio State University, Dr. Miller also earned her MD degree at OSU. After serving an internship at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was named “Best Intern,” she returned to Ohio State to complete her residency in neurologic surgery, and was named Acting Senior Resident and Senior Resident. Additionally, she completed a research fellowship in neurologic surgery at OSU. Dr. Miller then undertook a six-month fellowship in neurophysiology at Yale New Haven Hospitals in New Haven, CT before joining the neurosurgery faculty at the University of Michigan (1972-1974). In 1975, she returned to Ohio State as an assistant professor of neurosurgery, and, rising to the rank of full professor, has remained at OSU ever since.

Neurosurgery in the 1960s was considered a pioneering and perhaps difficult specialty for women to enter or to flourish in. But pioneering and difficulty have not been a problem for Dr. Miller. In fact, she was one of three women in the OSU Medical Class of 1966 who became highly respected leaders at the OSU Medical Center.

Dr. Miller has proven to be a strong researcher. She received National Institutes of Health grants for the basic mechanism of smooth muscle physiology and for muscle mass growth with transcutaneous stimulation. Her involvement in the Clinical Aspects of Thoraco-Lumbar Spine Trauma Research Center made her an expert in thoraco-lumbar spine trauma and fractures. She worked with her late husband, William E. Hunt, MD, the internationally known, longtime Director of the OSU Division of Neurosurgery, on the OSU Aneurysm Study – a groundbreaking classification of aneurysms that became the international standard. Dr. Miller performed several studies of magnetic resonance, CT and other imaging in spinal trauma and cerebrovascular accidents; researched stroke and acute care; and pursued interests in cerebellar circulation and stimulation in cerebral palsy.

Author of more than sixty articles in peer-reviewed journals in neurosurgery and related fields and of numerous book chapters, Dr. Miller has served as a visiting professor, presenter or panel member more than one-hundred times at professional meetings in central Ohio and around the world. She also is the author of important recent continuing medical education programs, including a course in spinal instrumentation presented at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee; a clinical program in Columbus on the new BAK™ Lumbar Interbody Fusion System; an American Medical Association Guides

(Fourth Edition) Seminar for the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians in Columbus; and a certification review and examination program for the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners.

Dr. Miller's innovative research was an important contribution to the direction and the knowledge base of the developing field of neurosurgery. Her involvement and leadership in national neurological societies has allowed her to influence the direction of this complex field over the past thirty-four years.

Again, I am pleased to lend my support to the nomination of Dr. Carole Miller as an American Medical Women's Association Local Legend. She was present at the "ground floor" of tremendous neurosurgical research and practice. Working locally, nationally and internationally in research, clinical care and education, she helped bring it to its current fruition. And she is here today, to help move it into its next – and certainly most thrilling – phase in the 21st century.

Very Truly Yours,

DEBORAH PRYCE
Member of Congress