

September 22, 2010

Ben Eisemen, MD
2552 E. Alameda Ave # 87
Denver Co. 80209

Dear Ben,

I just received the good news about your being selected to receive The Society University Surgeons' 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations! That the faculty award has only been given six previous times speaks for itself about its great significance.

The announcement referred to your "nonagenarian" status. This sent me to the dictionary and broadened my education: referring to a person who is over 90 but less than 100!

The announcement triggered many warm memories of our years together in Kentucky starting the Medical School. I was so fond of our five years in Kentucky that I accepted the invitation to be interviewed for the Chairmanship at NYU with some reluctance. I well remember your encouraging me to look at it carefully because you were impressed with the potential. This was a life-changing event because NYU at that time had Bellevue; and a new University Hospital with empty beds because it was new; and New York had a negative reputation for cardiac surgery because of the high mortality.

When I accepted the position in New York, many colleagues thought I had early 'Alzheimer's' but you strongly encouraged me, stating that it had great potential. The subsequent 40 years proved again and again how good your judgment was.

Congratulation again on the award. Give my best to Mary.

Best regards,



Frank C. Spencer, M.D.
Professor of Surgery
Physician Director of Patient Safety
FCS:sg

✓cc: Mark Evers