

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Major General (Retired) George Alexander, MD Class of 1970



Major General George Alexander, originally from Brooklyn, NY, was involved in several extracurricular activities while attending Power Memorial Academy including the Photography and Hiking Clubs and the Track and Gymnastics Teams. He enjoyed learning about photography and taking photos of basketball games for the Power Yearbook. He never forgot an overnight winter camping trip to Bear Mountain led by Br. John Kean. It snowed heavily during that night. Although the team was in a lean-to, the next morning everyone woke up with their sleeping bags being covered completely in snow. He almost froze on that cold winter night. Since he did not like running cross-country track in the 9th grade, he later found a deep interest in gymnastics. Being a member of the Gymnastics Team was a highlight of his career at Power. He competed on the pommel horse, the vault, and on rope climbing. He won several NY CHSAA awards. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

General Alexander completed premedical studies at Columbia College of Columbia University, medical school at Howard University College of Medicine, postgraduate medical specialty training at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, advanced biostatistics training at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is also a member of the only national honor medical society in the world—Alpha Omega Alpha.

General Alexander is a widely recognized expert on medical effects of weapons of mass destruction. He has twenty-five years' experience in military and operational medicine. He has served as an expert adviser to senior Army leaders and civilian government officials. He has been an adviser to undersecretaries, cabinet-level officials, and three-star generals.

General Alexander was the highest ranking physician and health care professional in the Army National Guard—an organization representing what was at the time the world's 11th largest army. As Deputy Surgeon General for the Army National Guard (ARNG) at Headquarters, Department of the Army, he served as principal advisor to the U.S. Army Surgeon General on all aspects of medical deployability, health status, and access to care of 350,000 ARNG soldiers. As a member of the General Officer Steering Committee, he oversaw a three-year pilot study designed to test a 90-day rotation policy concept. This project led to the approval by the Assistant Secretary for the Army and adoption of a new 90-day mobilization policy for reserve component physicians, dentists, and nurse anesthetists deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Director for Medical and Public Health Security in the Office of Homeland Security, The White House he was responsible for medical and public health policies and practices to safeguard the entire country against biological, radiological, and chemical terrorism. He led a team and drafted legislation for the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 which was signed into law by the President (Public Law 107-188). He was a contributing author for the published textbook *Ciottoni's Disaster Medicine* from Harvard University.

As Chief, Special Populations Studies Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), he directed and provided scientific leadership of a \$50 million research program whose objective was to develop effective strategies for prevention of cancer in targeted racial/ethnic population groups.