



**Leonard W. Cronkhite, Jr., M.D.**

*Physician Consultant*

*Research Foundation Executive*

*Class of 1937*

As a student at Needham High School, Leonard Cronkhite was involved in a variety of activities. He was class president in his junior and senior years, he played in the orchestra and he sang in the Glee Club. In addition Dr. Cronkhite was active in sports. He was on the football team for three years, he wrestled his senior year, and he competed on the track team for three years. He captained the track team in his senior year.

After Needham High School Dr. Cronkhite went to college at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Two other Needham High students were freshmen at the same time and that threesome won Bowdoin's Abraxus award for the highest grades received by any group of freshmen from the same high school. Dr. Cronkhite left Bowdoin after his junior year to join the Army and fight in World War II. He was stationed in Portland, Maine; Panama; Galapagos; and Burma. After the war Dr. Cronkhite returned to Bowdoin and graduated, magna cum laude, in 1946, although he retained his original graduating class of 1941 designation.

Following Bowdoin, Dr. Cronkhite entered Harvard Medical School and graduated in 1950. After completing his internship and residency programs at Massachusetts General Hospital, he began his career as a practicing physician at MGH. In addition to treating patients, Dr. Cronkhite was on the teaching staff at Harvard Medical School and on the consulting staff of other teaching hospitals in Boston.

In the early sixties Dr. Cronkhite began his long and distinguished association with Children's Hospital in Boston. His career as a practicing physician expanded to include hospital and medical center administration. These administrative duties culminated with his serving as Executive Vice-President and finally as President of Children's Hospital. During Dr. Cronkhite's tenure Children's Hospital continued and expanded its role as a premier, international children's medical center.

Throughout his career as a physician and administrator in the Boston health care community, Dr. Cronkhite remained active in the Army Reserves. Dr. Cronkhite participated in many Army medical conferences and schools during his reserve obligations and he was activated during the Cuban missile crisis. Dr. Cronkhite retired from the reserves with the rank of Major General having served as commanding general of the 94th ARCOM and as a member and Chairman of the Army Reserves Forces Policy Committee.

After leaving Children's Hospital, Dr. Cronkhite became President of the Medical College of Wisconsin where he served from 1977 until his retirement in 1984.

Dr. Cronkhite continues his health care career as a Director for Universal Health Services, Inc., a corporation which operates 50 hospitals nationwide. Further, Dr. Cronkhite spends most of his time on behalf of non-profit charitable institutions. He has been a trustee and past Chairman for Bowdoin College, Chairman of the Board for Bigelow Laboratories for Ocean Sciences, trustee for the Maine Maritime Museum, and member of the Board of Directors of the New England Grenfell Association. The latter organization sees to providing health care to isolated communities in Labrador and environs.