

OFHS



WALL OF FAME
Inducted June 1, 2003



DR. LORETTA LEJA

Loretta Leja was born in Abrams, Wis. on Sept 5, 1953. She graduated from Oconto Falls High School in 1971. She went on to graduate from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 1975 in the concentration of Human Adaptability, a type of broad field major involving biology, psychology and sociology. She attended the Medical College of Wisconsin, earning her M.D. in 1975. She met her husband, Douglas Jackson there and they were married in 1982. She completed her residency in Family Practice in Saginaw in 1982.

She set up practice in a small community in Cheboygan, Michigan with her husband and Dr. Gary Posner. She has been practicing the full range of a family physician, doing obstetrics, geriatrics as well as hospital work. She has been very instrumental in starting the Hospice program in Cheboygan, training the paramedics, and serving as chief of staff of Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, during a time of transition in the hospital.

The culmination of this career was her election in 1998 to the Michigan Family Physician of the Year. In 2000, she was in the eleven finalists for the American Family Physician of the Year. For a physician, there is no greater reward than to be recognized by your peers for having done an excellent job. The award also recognized the extra efforts she put into her practice of medicine.

Her husband was the President of the Michigan Academy of Family Practice and recently awarded the Plessner Award for Michigan Rural Physician of the Year. Together, with their partners, they made Rivertown Family Physicians a caring, complete place to go for a patient's medical needs.

Along the way, they found time to have three very active, bright children, Andrew, Rebecca and Christopher, active in soccer, band, scouts and many other activities.