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CONTACT:

Jean Klewitz

Texas Academy of Family Physicians

(512) 329-8666 ext. 116

jklewitz@tafp.org

Walter Wilkerson, Jr., MD, honored for longtime service to medicine

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — Walter Wilkerson, Jr., MD, of Conroe, Texas, was named the Texas Academy of Family Physicians 2018 Physician Emeritus during TAFP's Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in Arlington on Nov. 10. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary, long-serving physicians and a panel of TAFP members chooses one to distinguish as physician emeritus.

Wilkerson has had a long and distinguished career in Montgomery County. He served as an assistant clinical professor with Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, where he shared his experience and knowledge with medical students. He also served as chair of the board of trustees for Doctors Hospital and Conroe Regional Medical Center for many years.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Wilkerson held a variety of volunteer appointments for the state of Texas, including a six-year term as chairman of the Texas Board of Health. Throughout his long career, he has been active in both TAFP and the Texas Medical Association. Wilkerson retired from clinical practice in 1997 to focus his time and energy on another one of his passions – politics.

“Nicknamed ‘King Wally’ by Karl Rove, Dr. Wilkerson has served as chair of the Montgomery County Republican Party since 1964,” TAFP President Janet Hurley, MD, said at the awards ceremony. “During his 54 years as chairman, he has been credited with almost single-handedly bringing Montgomery County’s GOP from a ‘rag-tag group of outcasts to Republican pre-eminence.’”

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.