



**Theodore F. Marsh, MD**

**City:** North Royalton, OH

**Date of Graduation from Medical School:** 1957

**Medical School Graduated From:** Stritch – Loyola, Chicago, IL

**Residency Location:** VA Hospital Cleveland

**Specialty:** Internal Medicine

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**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician?** I always wanted to be a doctor. An uncle helped to inspire me while in college. I worked as an orderly, further confirming my intense desire to become a physician.

**Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you?** My uncle, Dr. Roy Mezgar and a friend, Dr. Robert Bartunek, both excellent internist, inspired me to go into internal medicine.

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?** My first house call. I correctly diagnosed and successfully treated my first patient-utilizing the skills I had learned in training.

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?** Get all the clinical experience you can. The more you see, the better you will do in your work.

**What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?** Keep your head up high. Be always proud of the work you are doing. Do not be discouraged by the hostile environment (lawyer, malpractice, issues, insurance. You are a blessing to the world!)

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?** The development of open heart surgery. This was the first of a series of innovations—transplants, joint replacement, newer and more effective drugs.

**What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career?** That I could not serve actively as long as I would have liked. Health and vulnerability issues held me back.

**Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career?** While working at an Indian Hospital our medical team saved the life of a young woman who had been given up for dead.