



**Richard L. Masters, MD**

**City:** Denver, CO

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

**Medical School Graduated From:** University of Michigan

**Residency Location:** USAF

**Specialty:** Aerospace Medicine

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**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician?** Need for self improvement; to make my life useful; a wonderful family physician and my college biology professor.

**Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you?** An inspiring medical school dean; many great professors; the history of medicine.

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?** Intervening to resuscitate an infant – successfully.

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?** Perseverance.

**What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?** Never forget: you are not a deity. Treat every patient as if he/she is the only one you will ever have.

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?** Improvements in heart disease management.

**Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career?** My first patient as a junior medical student, a wonderful kind and understanding grandmother with diabetes.