



## **William G. Plested III, MD** Immediate Past President American Medical Association

**W**illiam G. Plested III, MD, a thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, most recently served as the 161st president of the American Medical Association (AMA), from June 2006 to June 2007. Dr. Plested has been in private practice in Santa Monica, Calif., since 1970, and he holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and a doctorate from the University of Kansas Medical School. His surgical internship and residency were at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), School of Medicine, where he is now a clinical professor of surgery. Dr. Plested, who has a deep interest in the daily challenges facing practicing physicians, believes that with strong leadership, physicians can succeed in today's medical climate.

His involvement in organized medicine began as California physicians faced a medical liability crisis in the early 1970s. This unexpected threat to his new practice prompted him to join local physicians in actively seeking a solution. Their efforts resulted in the passage of the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA)—which today remains the “gold standard” of liability reform legislation. This experience taught him lessons of tenacity and diligence that underlie his staunch advocacy for patients and physicians.

Dr. Plested has held leadership positions throughout his medical career, encompassing all major offices, including presidency within both the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the California Medical Association. His current board memberships include Santa Monica-UCLA Hospital and the Audio-Digest Foundation. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, American Society of General Surgery, Pacific Coast Surgical Association, Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association.

Dr. Plested has been an AMA member since 1972. An active and influential member of the AMA delegation from Califor-

nia, he chaired Reference Committee I (AMA Federation study) at both the 1995 Interim and 1996 Annual meetings. He was a member of the special committee to study the AMA Board of Trustees (BOT) and was elected to the AMA-BOT in June 1998.

During his membership on the AMA-BOT, Dr. Plested served as a member and then as chair of the AMA Finance Committee, chair of the AMA Business Advisory Task Force, and chair of the AMA-BOT from June 2003 to June 2004.

Dr. Plested is a passionate defender of a patient's autonomy and a physician's right to make medical decisions with patients free from third-party interference. He honors and deeply respects those who practice the profession of medicine and remains undaunted by the current pressures on physicians and the increased threat to limit their freedom to advocate on patients' behalf.

Dr. Plested lives in Brentwood, Calif., with his wife, Carolyn. They have two children, Andrea and Scott, in addition to his three grown children, Judge Tamara Mosbarger, Stephanie Kosovich and Chip.

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