



Marilyn Hughes Gaston, MD

**Former Assistant Surgeon General and Director, Bureau of Primary Health Care,
U.S Public Health Service, Rear Admiral, USPHS, Ret.
Co-Director, The Gaston & Porter Health Improvement Center
www.gastonandporter.org**

Dr. Marilyn H. Gaston's professional career has been dedicated to improving the health of poor and minority families in our Nation and abroad. Her approach to accomplishing this goal has been through her direct delivery of quality primary health care; through the provision of medical education to young clinicians in training; involvement in clinical research; and through administration of local and Federal programs directed to services for the un- and underserved people of our country.

She is the first African American woman to direct a Public Health Service Bureau and only the second African American woman to achieve the position of Assistant Surgeon General and rank of Rear Admiral in the US Public Health Service. As Director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care in Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), she was responsible for a budget with the reach of \$5 Billion serving 12 million poor, underserved and disadvantaged people in our Nation.

Prior to her appointment as Bureau Director, her work at the National Institutes of Health changed the management of children with sickle cell disease that has resulted in significantly decreasing the morbidity and mortality in young children here and around the world, for which she is internationally recognized.

She has been concerned about the continuing disparities in health outcomes and established some innovative programs to address them and also served as the medical director of the National Minority Health Month program.

Her scientific achievements, as well as her ongoing commitment to improving the health of poor and minority Americans, have been recognized in many awards and honors, including every award given by the Public Health Service, and the most prestigious honor awarded by the National Medical Association—the NMA Scroll of Merit, in 1999. She also received the NMA's Lifetime Achievement Award, several honorary degrees, and is celebrated on "Marilyn Hughes

Gaston Day" in Cincinnati and Lincoln Heights, Ohio. The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine has named a scholarship in her honor, giving full medical scholarships to two underprivileged minority students each year. The scholarships help other young people facing discrimination and financial hardship to pursue their own dreams of a career in medicine.

Dr. Gaston is a much sought after speaker and a frequent keynote speaker on topics close to her heart: Women's Health, especially African American Women's Health, Elimination of Health Disparities, Improving Access to Health Care, Sickle Cell Disease and the Needs of Youth.

She is featured regularly on radio and television locally - and has appeared nationally on "The Larry King Show" and Black Entertainment Television.

She is the co-author of the book entitled: **Prime Time: The African American Woman's Complete Guide to Midlife Health and Wellness** published by Random House.

Dr. Gaston's dream for this Nation is 100% access to quality care and 0 disparities in health outcomes.