

Verne Edward Chaney, Jr.
Doctor of Science

Dr. Verne Chaney is the founder and president of the Thomas A. Dooley Foundation/INTERMED USA and founder and president of INTERMED, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERMED is a private, non-sectarian agency whose mission is to assist in developing medical care systems in less developed countries, to provide medical aid to refugees, and to support and manage medical care for primitive tribal groups.

Dr. Chaney's lifetime of humanitarianism began while he was in medical school at Johns Hopkins when he spent his summers working with the Grenfell Mission in Labrador and Newfoundland. Upon completing his surgical residency, he donated his services to the Albert Schweitzer hospital in Haiti. During the Korean War he served with distinction as a military surgeon, was wounded in action, and become one of the most highly decorated medical officers in the Army. In 1961, Dr. Chaney left his private surgical practice to volunteer for work with Dr. Tom Dooley's organization MEDICO. He spent several months in Vietnam and Cambodia training health workers and caring for civilian refugees displaced by war. After Dr. Dooley's death, he was asked to assume responsibility for the Dooley medical programs in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and with Tibetan refugees in India. Not wanting these programs to lapse, he agreed and established the Thomas A. Dooley Foundation. Projects have since been added in Nepal, Thailand, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, and Tanzania.

Dr. Chaney has committed his life to improving the health care of thousands of underprivileged people throughout the world. His work is an aristocracy of achievement that inspires and stands as a shining example of selfless dedication to humanity. Yet, his modesty and self-effacement is illustrated by a recent letter to a friend: "These have been years of satisfying work and honest interaction, serving only a moderate amount of the health needs of an underserved world, armed with very meager resources. Benefits and accomplishments are scarcely measurable, but I do believe the efforts served as a catalyst for learning, self-help and better health. But in truth, I will never really know."

Dr. Chaney's many decorations and awards include the Silver Star, the Croix de Guerre (France), the Order of a Million Elephants and the White Parasol (Royal Government of the Kingdom of Laos), and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine Distinguished Service Award. He is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (B.S., 1944), and The Johns Hopkins University (M.D., 1948, M.P.H., 1972), and completed a residency in surgery at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1956).