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EDITOR'S PICK

## Marietta doctor honored for lifelong medical career

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Special to the MDJ

Dr. Jeffrey Stone, president of the Cobb County Medical Society, left, presents Dr. Tony Musarra with an award named after him for his medical career.

The Cobb County Medical Society awarded the first "E Anthony Musarra Award" to its namesake for his medical career in Cobb.

The award was established this year to recognize a physician for their distinguished and meritorious service that reflects credit and honor on the Cobb County Medical Society, said Joanne Thurston, executive director of the Cobb County Medical Society.

Dr. Tony Musarra, the first honoree and award's namesake, is now in hospice care, and the Cobb County Medical Society wanted to honor him while he could enjoy the tribute, according to Thurston.

A Marietta native, Musarra graduated from Marietta High School where he played football and excelled academically. He attended Tulane University and the University of Georgia and received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia.

While he was completing his residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, Texas, in the early 1960s, Musarra trained under the co-founder of the silicone breast implant. Musarra returned to Marietta to open a plastic surgery practice in 1974 and became a member of the Cobb County Medical Society, according to Thurston.

He was elected the society's president in 1999 and has remained active on the board ever since.

Musarra is responsible for numerous advancements in Cobb's medical community. In 1982, he was responsible for generating interest from Kennestone Hospital and physicians for oxygen-therapy wound care to help with open sores such as diabetic ulcers, gangrene, ulcerations and bedsores.

He was also politically involved and collected checks from many doctors to support Gov. Sonny Perdue's campaign in 2003. Musarra also explained the medical business and the importance of the patient and physician relationship to legislators, Thurston said.

After Hurricane Katrina, Musarra was instrumental in organizing the Cobb Medical Reserve Corp, which provided disaster and emergency training to physicians in the Marietta community.

The Cobb County Medical Society was established in 1905 and now has more than 100 members who are physicians in Cobb, Bartow, Cherokee, Paulding, Douglas and Fulton counties.

