I now have the honor of presenting the Second ALIMDA Distinguished Physician's Award. The Nominating Committee considered a number of persons for this prestigious award and its final recommendation was a physician well known to all of you for his contributions to insurance medicine --- Dr. George Porter Robb.

Would Dr. Robb please come to the platform.

I would like to tell you something of Dr. Robb's long and distinguished career. He received his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1926 and interned at the Indianapolis City Hospital. He spent the next seven years here in Boston where he was affiliated with Harvard Medical School, The Boston City Hospital and Boston Lying-In Hospital. He joined the staff of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1934 and ultimately rose to the position of Medical Director, Medical Underwriting - a position he held until he retired in 1965. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and a diplomate of The American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Robb is well known for his contribution to insurance medicine because of the work he did relating to the electrocardiographic exercise test. He started this work while he was at Walter Reed Army Hospital, (1942-46) and he and Dr. Tom Mattingly did a classical follow-up study of Army Officers which demonstrated the value of the exercise test in predicting mortality. Dr. Robb continued his study of the exercise test during his career at Metropolitan and published numerous articles. He also presented papers at the Annual Meetings of ALIMDA in 1953, 1956 and 1961. He was the first to relate the degree of ST segment depression to the severity of coronary insufficiency and to the mortality rate.

What is less known about Dr. Robb is that he did basic research in Dr. Soma Weiss' laboratory while he was at Harvard, and in addition he was a pioneer in the development of cardiac angiography. He and Dr. Israel Steinberg published classical papers on the visualization of chambers of the heart, and Dr. Robb was one of the first people to have cardiac angiography performed on himself.

When Dr. Robb was in the Army in World War II, he served as Chief of the Cardiovascular Renal Section of the Walter Reed Army Hospital. In a letter to Mr. Leroy Lincoln, who was President of Metropolitan during World War II, Dr. Paul Hawley, Chief Medical Director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. requested that Dr. Robb be given a leave of absence to work with them in providing the best medical care for veterans with cardiovascular disease. Stressing the need for his services, Dr. Hawley wrote: "Foremost among the new methods of precise diagnosis is angiography - the X-ray visualization of the interior of the heart and blood vessels during life. This procedure enhances the accuracy of diagnosis, improves treatment, shortens the period of hospitalization and at times, is life saving. It was originated and developed by Colonel Robb ... He is, I believe, the only one qualified to develop this important aspect of the Cardiovascular Research Unit and to extend its use to Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the country."

Dr. Robb was awarded the Gold Medal by the American Roentgen Society in 1939 for his work on "Visualization of the Chambers of the Heart, the Pulmonary Blood Vessels and the Aorta in Heart Disease," the Silver Medal, by the American Medical Association in 1940 for "Visualization of the Chambers of the Heart and of the Intrathoracic Blood Vessels" and the Legion of Merit from the Medical Corps, U.S. Army in 1945 for his many outstanding contributions to the field of cardiovascular research.