

Norman M. Rich, M.D., F.A.C.S., DMCC

Dr. Norman Minner Rich was born in Ray (Established 1882- Demolished 1965) Pinal County, Arizona on 13 January 1934, the son of George Rich (formerly Kauzlarich until 1930) and Leona LuVerne Minner Rich. After two years at the University of Arizona, he transferred to Stanford University receiving a B.A. in 1956 and an M.D. in 1960. He completed a Rotating Internship at Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu and a General Surgery Residency at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. He was assigned to the Second Surgical Hospital (MA) as Chief of the Department of Surgery, first at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1965 and later in An Khe in the Republic of Vietnam 1965-1966. He was the first Fellow in Vascular Surgery at Walter Reed General Hospital 1966-1967 also assuming the position as Chief of Vascular Surgery and Director of the Vascular Fellowship Program in 1967 which he held until 1978. His initial academic appointment was as Associate Professor at George Washington University (1973-1978). He was appointed Professor of Surgery at the School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1976 and he became the first Chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1977. At the time of his retirement from active duty in 1980, he made a second commitment to serve as Chairman of the Department of Surgery. He also served as Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery (1977-99) and Director of the Vietnam Vascular Registry, which he initiated in 1965 and maintains, as well as Academic Advisor to the Department of Surgery and Co-Director of the Vascular Fellowship Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center since 1978 becoming Emeritus in 1993. He was appointed Professor of Military Medicine in 1983-. He became the Leonard Heaton and David Packard Professor in 1999 named for two USU Founders. He stepped down as the Founding Chairman of Surgery 13 October 2002 after more than 25 years of service. He served, again, as Acting Chairman 10 Aug–2 Dec 2003 when Chair Colonel David Burris was deployed to Iraq. He has served as Deputy Chairman of Surgery since mid-October 2002.