

26th Annual
Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series
With Special Dedication of Nash Way

Friday, October 14, 2022
5:30 p.m.

SPONSORED BY
Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

 **Washington**
University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Thank you for joining us as we celebrate significant events in our collective history.

Our Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture, which dates back to 1996, recognizes the historic hospital and the people who served and were served there. We especially recall that last year's event honored Dr. Helen Nash.

Today, enabled by the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, we further honor the Nash family legacy in our community and our medical institutions by renaming the street in the center of our Medical Campus as Nash Way.

In addition, we will soon display a permanent timeline of key moments in our institutions' evolution toward diversity, inclusion and culturally responsive care for all patients in one of our most prominent public corridors, serving the medical center's faculty, staff and trainees.

Our institutional mission emphasizes building a campus culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. Today, we establish important milestones on that journey.

Welcome.

David H. Perlmutter, MD

Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs
Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor
George and Carol Bauer Endowed Dean,
School of Medicine

Sherree A. Wilson, PhD

Associate Vice Chancellor
Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

PROGRAM

5:30 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS AND DEDICATION

EPNEC lobby

6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

Will Ross, MD, MPH

Associate Dean for Diversity

Principal Officer for Community Partnerships

INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS

David H. Perlmutter, MD

Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean

The Honorable Tishaura O. Jones

Mayor, City of St. Louis

Trish Lollo, MPH

President, St. Louis Children's Hospital

Alison Nash, MD

Representing the Nash Family

SPEAKER

Donald M. Suggs, DDS

Civic Leader

Publisher and Executive Editor, St. Louis American

Q&A SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS

7:00 p.m.

COCKTAILS AND RECEPTION

Donald M. Suggs, DDS

Donald M. Suggs, DDS, was born in East Chicago, Indiana, where he attended public schools. He graduated with bachelor's and doctor of dental surgery degrees from Indiana University, then completed his postgraduate work at Washington University School of Dental Medicine. He came to St. Louis for an internship in 1957 and medical residency a year later at the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital. Suggs chose Phillips — known as a training ground for a generation of Black physicians — over an internship in New York because of the presence of African American figures in authority.



He served as chief of oral surgery at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and was the first African American to serve as an associate clinical professor at Saint Louis University School of Dentistry. Suggs was a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and maintained a limited private practice in his specialty before retiring in 2011.

Active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and '70s, he served as chair of the Poor People's March-On-Washington in 1968. He was a long-time president of the Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African Art based in St. Louis and New York City (1970-1989). He is a founding member of the Center for African Art (now the Museum of African Art in New York City) and is a former member of the board of directors of the Studio Museum in New York as well. Suggs currently serves on the Saint Louis Art Museum Board of Commissioners and its Collections Committee.

In 1980, Suggs and two partners purchased the St. Louis American newspaper. Today, the American is the largest independent newspaper in Missouri and one of the largest African American papers in the nation. Among recent honors, the American in September won 33 statewide awards, in competition against newspapers with circulation of 5,000 or more, from the Missouri Press Association in its 2021 Better Newspaper Contest. The awards included the first-place award for general excellence, which the American has won seven times.

Suggs was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Washington University in 2012. He has served on the board of numerous institutions, including Barnes-Jewish Goldfarb School of Nursing, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, Harris-Stowe University, The Muny, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Regional Business Council, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Urban League, and the Washington University George Warren Brown School of Social Work National Council. He was named St. Louis Citizen of the Year in 2004.

Homer G. Phillips and the Legacy of Public Hospitals in St. Louis

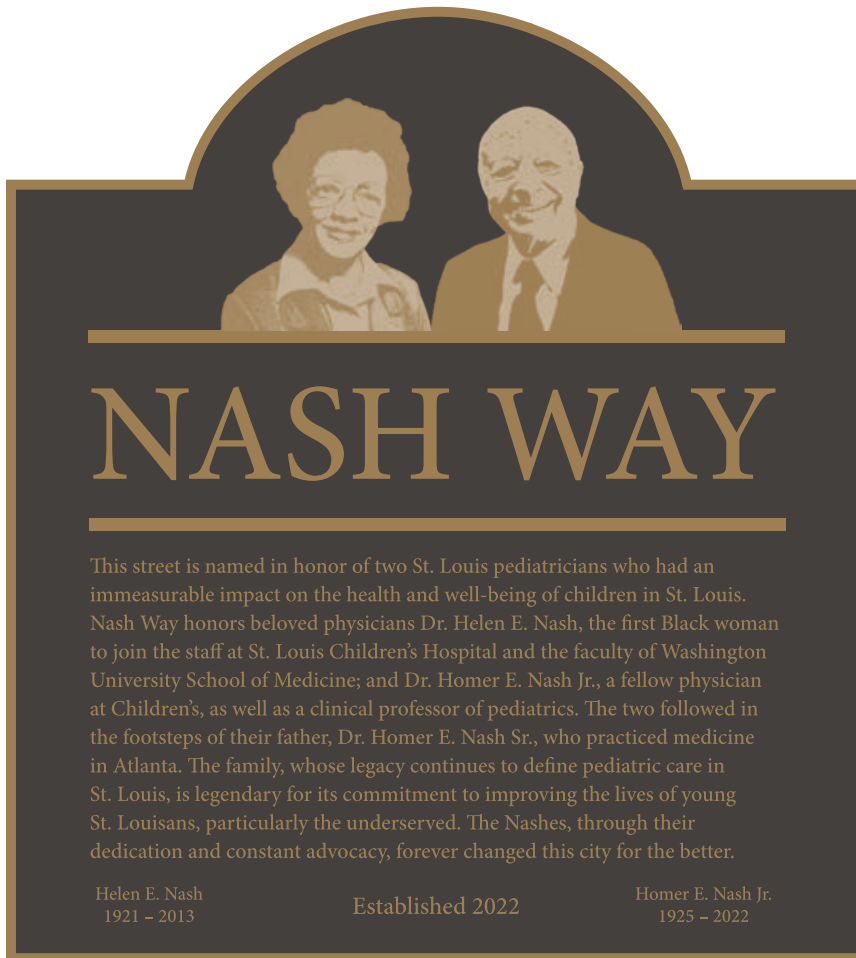


In 1905 Dr. John Green, President of the St. Louis Medical Society, with a keen understanding of the plight of public hospitals in other cities issued this charge to St. Louis physicians on the eve of opening a new City Hospital:

“Will it vouchsafe to the pauper a medical care equivalent to that which his pecuniarily more fortunate fellow citizens receive? Will it fulfill to the utmost its function of providing instruction in practical medicine to the undergraduate student? And will our hospital be thoroughly in accord with the spirit of medical enlightenment?”

Presidential Report, St. Louis Medical Review
Jan. 14, 1905

A succession of public hospitals failed in that charge — City Hospital No. 1 (Max C. Starkloff), City Hospital No. 2, and St. Louis County Hospital, despite their professed missions, opened as segregated facilities. Only under duress, and toward the twilight of their existence, did they admit and treat irrespective of race, creed or color. There is one bright exception, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital. It opened its doors as a truly “public” facility in 1937, still shrouded in intrigue after the mysterious assassination of its main advocate and benefactor, attorney Homer Gilliam Phillips. At a time in American society when people of color were restricted from most medical training programs, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital became the premier training ground for African American medical professionals – many of whom remained to deliver high-quality health care in the St. Louis area and who later assumed prestigious positions throughout the nation. The successes of its subsequent years of operation (as well as the complex issues surrounding its closure) became legendary in the annals of public hospitals. It closed its doors on Aug. 17, 1979, followed by St. Louis City No. 1 in 1985, St. Louis County Hospital in 1987, and St. Louis Regional Hospital in 1997. While we cannot now walk the halls of Homer G. Phillips Hospital, we can learn much from its history, presented by the very people who strived diligently to provide culturally sensitive care to the patients who so deeply trusted and loved them and their hospital. This lecture series is named in honor of the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis.



Nash Way Dedication

In 2022, the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen passed resolutions honoring Helen Nash and Homer Nash Jr. for their vast contributions to the city, where the Nash family has been treating children and advancing medical education since the 1940s.



Resolution Number 219 • Honoring Dr. Helen Nash



WHEREAS, the Nash family has selflessly served the families of St. Louis, where a Nash pediatrician has been treating children and reassuring parents since the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Helen Nash was a pioneer for women, for Black Americans, and a pioneer in medicine. Graduating medical school in 1945 as one of only four women in her graduating class, she began an internship at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, the only hospital in St. Louis open to Black doctors. She helped transform their care for premature babies, reducing infant mortality with simple, effective changes in practice and organization within the neonatal unit; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 she became the first Black woman to join the staff at St. Louis Children's Hospital, rising to become president of the staff in 1977, a position she held until 1979; and

WHEREAS, also in 1949 she became the first Black woman to join the faculty of Washington University School of Medicine, where she served as a professor of clinical pediatrics. In 1993 she served as the school's dean of minority affairs until retiring in 1996; and

WHEREAS, also in 1949, Helen Nash opened her own private practice to serve children; and

WHEREAS, all the while, Dr. Helen Nash was renaissance woman, having served on:

the Missouri Botanical Garden Board for more than two decades,

on the board of the St. Louis Symphony, where she endowed a guest artist's chair,

and on the Missouri Historical Society board of trustees, where she donated a collection of historical works related to Black culture, including first editions of Uncle Tom's Cabin, as well as works by Langston Hughes, rare maps documenting the slave trade, and manuscripts related to emancipation in the Civil War era; and

WHEREAS, her brother, Dr. Homer Nash, Jr., would follow in 1952 for his own residency at Homer G. Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Homer Nash was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart in the Second Great World War; and

Continued

WHEREAS, he, too, opened his own practice, renting space above a drug store in 1955; and

WHEREAS, both doctors Nash were advocates not only for the children in their clinics, but for the children of greater St. Louis, urging physicians to report mistreatment by parents or caretakers, convincing city leaders to address lead poisoning and rat bites, all too common problems among the underserved children in St. Louis, and being early adopters of using nurse practitioners to help extend the care available to the community; and

WHEREAS, Homer's daughter, Alison Nash, continues the legacy as a pediatrician today, a true native daughter of St. Louis, having graduated from our public schools in 1973; and

WHEREAS, following in her father's footsteps, she also served nobly in the US military. After medical school she spent an eleven-year career with the Navy, rising to the rank of Lt. Commander. Alison Nash returned home to join her father at his North City pediatric clinic where she, too, has led professionally and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Nash family has been highly decorated in acknowledgment of its contributions to St. Louis and to medicine. Both Helen and Homer Nash were awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards in Health Care by the St. Louis American. Alison Nash received the Stellar Performer in Healthcare award from the St. Louis American and was named Community Advocate of the Year by St. Louis Children's Hospital. Helen Nash was honored with lifetime honorary membership into the St. Louis Medical Society and Medical Women's Society. The NAACP awarded Helen Nash its Women's Medal of Honor, while both the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Webster University awarded her honorary doctorates; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Helen Nash's pioneering work, the Washington University School of Medicine has awarded the Dr. Helen E. Nash Academic Achievement Award annually to a student since 1996, and in 2014, the St. Louis Children's Hospital began offering an internship to young woman of color in Dr. Helen Nash's honor; and

WHEREAS, the Nash family has come to define pediatrics for generations of St. Louis parents and children, and as such, for all the reasons mentioned herein and for many others, this body recently passed a bill to make Nash Way a street in the city of St. Louis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the many accomplishments and achievements of the Nash family. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the Minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to the family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced by: The Honorable Tina Pihl, Alderwoman 17th Ward

Adopted this 11th day of March, 2022

Resolution Number 22 • Honoring Dr. Homer Erwin Nash, Jr.



WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis of the passing of Dr. Homer Erwin Nash, Jr. an active and contributing member of our community; and

WHEREAS, Homer Erwin Nash, Jr, MD was born in Atlanta, GA on August 22, 1925. He was the fifth child, and only son, of Homer Erwin Nash, Sr. and Marie Antionette Graves Nash. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta until joining the army. He served in the US Army Infantry in Italy during World War II and received the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal for service to his country; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. There he met and fell in love with Ellene Terrell Bentley, and they married in 1947. They began their family with the

birth of their eldest daughter in 1949; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from medical school in 1951 and joined his sister Helen in St. Louis in 1952 for a residency in Pediatrics at Homer G. Phillips Hospital. In 1955 he began his private pediatric practice and during the next years, he and Ellene added four more daughters to their blossoming family; and

WHEREAS, while a member of the medical staff at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC) he served on many committees and advisory boards. He worked with the Community Outpatient Practice Experience facilitating real-life community pediatric practicums for medical residents from Children's Hospital. He did the same for physician assistants and nurse practitioners from other programs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his practice, he was a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine and dedicated himself to providing excellent healthcare to and advocacy for underserved children and families in North St. Louis. He was a member of the National Medical Association, the Mound City Medical Forum, and the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, he was a proud "Girl Dad", grandfather, and great-grandfather. His energy, kindness, intelligence, and humor blessed his family, friends, and all who encountered him. Always active he also enjoyed playing handball, racquetball, golf, and worldwide travel with family and friends. He was an avid reader and Master bridge player and even taught the game to others. He was also a member of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, the ETA Boule chapter, The Royal Vagabonds, the Music Lovers, the Ebony Tennis Club, and the St. Louis Bridge Club; and

WHEREAS, Homer is preceded in death by his wife Ellene Nash, parents, Marie Antoinette Graves Nash and Homer E. Nash, Sr., sisters Marie Nash, Catherine Harris Frye, Helen Nash, Harriet Chisholm, and son-in-law Leo Ming; and **WHEREAS**, he is survived by his sister Dorothy Shack, daughters Terrell Ellene Mann (Steve), Lauren Ming, Sherry Heard, Alison Nash (Clarence Dula) and Tracey Nash-Huntley (David Huntley) survive him as do his grandchildren, Earl Ming (Nikkisha), Stephan Mann, Courtney Dula (Adam Pearson), Carole Dula-Bell (Rickell Bell), CK Ming, Jordan Heard, Sydney Heard, Calhoun Huntley, Porter Huntley, William Dula, and Homer Dula; and great-grandchildren Zoey Birdsong, Gabrielle Ming, Kyah Mann, Gavin Ming, Vivienne Pearson, Denise Bell, Phineas Pearson, and Imani Makeda Black. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, in-laws, and a host of friends of all ages.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the many achievements and contributions of Dr. Homer Erwin Nash, Jr. and by adoption of this Resolution wish to add our names to the rolls of people honoring and celebrating his life. We further direct the Clerk of this Board of Aldermen to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented to the Nash family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced by: The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26th Ward

Adopted this 6th day of May, 2022

Nash Way well-deserved tribute for Dr. Homer Nash, family

Street will bear their name

Dr. David H. Perlmutter and Gary A. Silverman for the St. Louis American | Jun 4, 2022 | Updated Jun 8, 2022



Dr. Homer E. Nash Jr. and his daughter, Dr. Allison C. Nash, pose in front of a wall of photos of many children whom Homer, and later Allison, served through their practices. Children's Place will be renamed after the Nash family and be called Nash Way.

At the heart of the Central West End there is a street called Children's Place, but part of that street at the center of the medical campus will soon be named Nash Way. The change will honor a family whose legacy continues to define pediatric care in St. Louis. As two St. Louis pediatricians, we celebrate this well-deserved tribute as we mourn the loss of Dr. Homer Nash Jr., a consummate educator and renowned clinician whose name is synonymous with compassionate care.

By the time we arrived in St. Louis as pediatric specialists, the Nash family was already legendary here for its dedication to improving the health and well-being of children, particularly the underserved. We soon learned the family's extraordinary story, starting with Dr. Homer E. Nash Sr., one of the first African American physicians, graduating medical school in 1910.

The medical careers of two of his children, Helen and Homer, brought them to St. Louis and forever changed this city for the better. Dr. Helen Nash did her residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital and was made supervisor of pediatrics the minute she finished her training. She transformed care at that hospital and in 1949 became the first African American woman to join the attending staff at St. Louis Children's Hospital, where she helped develop one of the first specialized wards for premature infants.

She fought to get the best care for her patients — and for basic recognition of their humanity. Helen was also one of the first four African American physicians on the clinical faculty of Washington University School of Medicine and later served as acting dean of minority affairs for three years after her retirement from practice. She paved the way for others to follow her, creating a scholarship for St. Louis kids looking to pursue careers in medicine.

Dr. Homer E. Nash Jr. served in the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. When he returned, he went to medical school in Nashville and then moved to St. Louis to train under his sister at Homer G. Phillips.

Like Helen, he understood there were children in the community who wouldn't have access to the same resources other area children did. So he dedicated himself to serving those children. He spoke to them with kindness and respect, and supported and listened to the adults who brought them in. He was a constant advocate for his patients, and they adored him.

Nash also made his mark beyond his private practice. He was on staff at St. Louis Children's and Barnes-Jewish hospitals, and served on many committees and advisory boards. He was a clinical professor of pediatrics at Washington University and worked with the Community Outpatient Practice Experience to facilitate community pediatric practicums for WashU medical residents and for physician assistants and nurse practitioners in other programs.

With his trainees, Nash took the same approach he did with patients: sustained and compassionate one-on-one attention.

He practiced and taught well into his 80s, impacting the lives of countless children and students. We are so fortunate that the Nash legacy in St. Louis continues. Dr. Alison Nash, Homer's daughter, took over his practice and now cares for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the patients who so loved her father. She has also been on staff at St. Louis Children's since 1989 and, like her father, is a preceptor for the COPE program.

She helps train residents, and she mentors medical students, undergraduates and kids from the St. Louis Public Schools who are interested in medicine. As medical director of Healthy Kids Express, she sends mobile asthma and dental care, hearing and vision tests, and screenings for lead poisoning and anemia into the community.

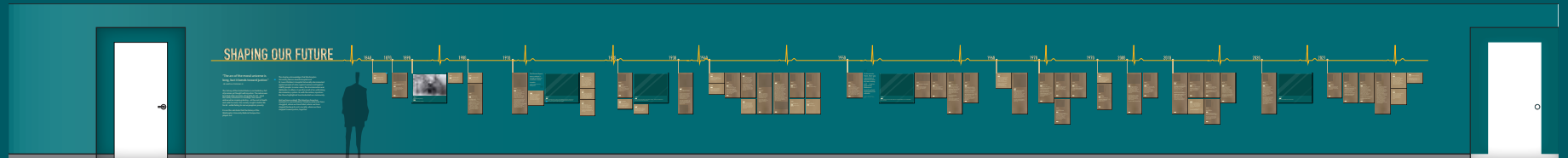
The Nash family has shown us what it means to take seriously the health and specific needs of all members of our community. In our work at WashU, we strive to live up to their example every day.

Nash Way will honor this extraordinary family and serve as a permanent testimonial of their service. And it will remind all of us who work with children why we are here and how we can best show up for our patients and the future of our region.

In February, the city approved a measure renaming Children's Place — between Euclid Avenue on the west to Taylor Avenue on the east — as Nash Way, to celebrate the accomplishments and cultural impact of Dr. Helen Nash on the St. Louis region. Dr. Nash, Jr., passed away April 21, at age 96.

David H. Perlmutter, MD, is executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Gary A. Silverman, MD, PhD, is head of the Department of Pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine and pediatrician-in-chief at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE



A new installation planned for the Steven & Susan Lipstein BJC Institute of Health at Washington University School of Medicine represents our institutions' commitment to addressing all forms of racial bias in our missions of research, education and patient care. The timeline display features key moments that have contributed to and, ultimately, will help overcome these injustices. Here is a look at the piece's official introduction.

Washington University School of Medicine and the hospitals of Washington University Medical Campus were born as places of healing. But even as our institutions rose to national prominence, they also perpetuated racial injustice — harboring exclusion, segregation and mistrust.

Black people were deliberately excluded from being administrators or faculty. Black students were unwelcome. Black patients were treated in segregated wards or buildings, if they were treated at all.

Yet throughout our history, leaders in our community have arisen to demand justice loudly, to foster it quietly or simply to live as exemplars of a better way.

Today, the institutions of Washington University Medical Campus fully commit to following the wise path these leaders have forged. Through reckoning, reconciliation and truth, we will achieve a just and equitable future.

Washington University School of Medicine
Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC)
320 S. Euclid Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110



Washington University in St. Louis

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