

# Will Someone Take Over for Lyndon Lee?

Lyndon Edmond Lee, D.C., who led the chiropractors in New York in the half-century struggle for licensure, died in his sleep on Sunday, October 23, 1983. Dr. Lee was 95 years old. He had practiced in Mt. Vernon, New York for 65 years and retired in 1979 at the age of 91 only due to a fractured hip.

Dr. Lee's passing brought the finish to one of the more remarkable personal histories in the annals of the chiropractic profession. He graduated from Palmer School of Chiropractic in 1915 and was a charter member of the reorganized New York State Chiropractic Society and became one of the profession's best known figures. He helped draft every licensing bill presented to the New York legislature between 1915 and 1963 when a favorable vote was finally obtained. During his career he received many honors including serving as vice-president-at-large of the American Chiropractic Association in the late 1920s, was instrumental in the merger with the Universal Chiropractor's Association which became the National Chiropractic Association in 1930, served as a member of the committee that established standards for chiropractic licensing examinations in New York State, and served as President of the Federation of Chiropractic Societies. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Chiropractic Association of New York State and chairman of its Public Relations and Legislative Committees. Dr. Lee's last award was bestowed upon him at the First Conference on Chiropractic History which was held at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History on June 6, 1981. It was at that time that the Association for the History of Chiropractic named him the recipient of its first honorary award.

I never had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lee. In fact, until his death I had never even heard of this extraordinary gentleman. But after reading of his accomplishments and the dedication he had to his profession, it's obvious that chiropractic has lost a true pioneer.

But the real purpose of this article is to comment on what I consider Dr. Lee's greatest moment. In 1933, Dr. Lee was arrested and cited for "practicing medicine without a license." Although he would finally be acquitted, his case was in and out of the courts 30 times within the next three years. Dr. Lee and others like him were singled out and tested by those who were trying to destroy chiropractic during those early years. We have this great profession today because the Lee pioneers were willing to pay



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the price for what they believed in. They met the challenge and chiropractic is forever indebted to them.

Perhaps the saddest thing about losing the Lyndon Lees of this profession is that we're not replacing them. Today, instead of chiropractors who would go to jail for chiropractic, we have chiropractors who won't join their state or national associations. Today, instead of chiropractors who would go to jail for chiropractic, we have chiropractors who won't support the college they graduated from. Today, instead of chiropractors who would go to jail for chiropractic, we have chiropractors who view this profession only as their own personal business venture with a primary function of extracting the maximum amount of money from their patients and insurance companies.

Chiropractic does not belong to us. It belongs to the public. We are only caretakers whose job is to preserve and protect it so chiropractic will be available for the next generation of patients that will need it. This is the attitude Lyndon Lee had and that is the attitude we had better develop. If we don't, Dr. Lee's work and dedication will be in vain because we may not have anything worth passing on. Will someone take over for Lyndon Lee?

**DO YOUR PART!  
DON'T EXPECT  
SOMEONE ELSE  
TO DO IT FOR YOU!!!**