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# NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY-



It is with a sense of deep loss and sorrow that we announce the death of Dr. John P. Rattigan, an incorporator, co-founder and first Vice President of the American Society of Law & Medicine. John Rattigan was a guiding light in the development and posture of the ASLM. With his help, continued encouragement, intellectual guidance and his deep appreciation for man's thirst for greater knowledge, the Society has grown from its origins as a local medical group of limited membership into a respected organization providing continuing medicolegal educational programs on an expanding nationwide basis. It is for these reasons, plus the many personal attributes which made Dr. John Rattigan the wonderful human being he was, that the officers and members of the ASLM will miss him greatly.

A skilled medical practitioner for over 30 years, John Rattigan's illustrious medical career started in 1939 with his graduation from Boston University's School of Medicine. After an internship and residency at the Boston City Hospital, he went on active duty as a Medical Officer of the U.S. Navy serving in the Pacific Theatre during the Second World War.

Upon completion of his military service, Dr. Rattigan returned to Boston. In the course of his practice of internal medicine and cardiology, he became more involved with continuing medicolegal education.

Among his many distinguished professional appointments, John Rattigan served for ten years as Physician-In-Chief of the Fifth Medical Service at the Boston City Hospital and Coordinator of Intern and Resident Training at the same facility, and for three years as Director of the Division of Medicine and Medical Education for St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston.

His academic appointments included Lecturer in Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine and Clinical Professor of Medicine of Tufts University School of Medicine.

## In Memoriam

Dr. John Rattigan was an energetic and tireless man who put in countless number of hours in pursuit of medicine and medicolegal education. In addition to his many professional activities and busy practice, he was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and served as a member of the board of many medical societies, and he was a member of the Public Health Council of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In a eulogy delivered by the Most Reverend Lawrence J. Riley, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, it was appropriately stated that "... Dr. Rattigan distinguished himself, not only by his outstanding ability in the field of medicine, but equally by his innate conscientiousness, his moral rectitude, and his utter integrity. Surely, to the career of Dr. John P. Rattigan as an eminent physician and a man of loftiest ideals can be applied the memorable words of Ruskin: 'Every noble life leaves the fibre of it in the work of the world.'"

Without question, John's ideals and integrity leaves the fibre of his noble life in the works, goals and objectives of the American Society of Law & Medicine.

In his eulogy, it was also said that, "when, through one person, a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth have come into the world — then that person's life has had meaning. Judged by this standard, Dr. Rattigan's life surely has had deep meaning. For who can count the enormous contributions brought to thousands of men, women and children for three and one half decades by the talent, skill and dedication of a devoted physician and leading educator..."

His family, his many friends, his patients, his students and we of the American Society of Law & Medicine feel his loss greatly.

Elliot L. Sagall, M.D.  
*President, ASLM*