

# Louisa Elaine Chapman

Louisa Elaine Chapman, M.D., M.S.P.H, Associate Director for Science and Captain in the US Public Health Service Corps at the Center for Disease Control, died peacefully in her home on August 21, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia. Her Plott Bear Hound, Balsam, and a friend and nurse were by her side. She was 64.

Louisa was born in Urbana, Illinois to John Judson Chapman and Dorothy Eliza Walker Chapman in 1952 and spent her early life in Magnolia, Arkansas before moving to Sylva, North Carolina. She graduated from Sylva-Webster High School in 1971 as a National Merit Scholar. After graduating from Macalester College, cum laude, with a B.A. in Biology and Philosophy in 1975, she went on to receive a Teacher Certificate from Western Carolina University in 1976, a M.S.P.H. in Parasitology and Laboratory Practice from the School of Public Health UNC in 1977 and an M.D. in Medicine from the School of Medicine UNC in 1982. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota Hospital in 1985, followed by a Fellowship in Infectious Disease at Boston University Medical Center in 1988.

Prior to her work with CDC, Louisa worked as a physician scientist and researched chemical carcinogenesis. She practiced geriatric and general medicine, and served as the medical director of a medium security men's work prison.

Since 1988, Louisa has worked in many roles and locations at the Center for Disease Control. Some of the highlights of her career include being an Epidemic Intelligence Officer in West Africa in 1988-1990 and a Team Leader investigating the Hantavirus outbreak in New Mexico 1993-1995. She worked on xenotransplantation, biologic therapeutics, smallpox vaccination safety, and immunization policy before traveling to Baton Rouge, as the CDC Liaison for the Emergency Response Team in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In 2005-2006, she was the Assistant Director for Life Sciences for the Executive Office of the President in Washington, D.C. She has also contributed to the knowledge, treatment and containment of HIV/AIDS, TB, and pandemic influenza. She particularly enjoyed caring for patients at the Cherokee Indian Hospital and mentoring public health professionals.

In the course of her career, Louisa was awarded 35 medals, commendations and awards. She was considered a world expert in viral epidemiology, authoring over 140 publications, and was an invited reviewer/consultant for the US National Academies of Sciences, Department of Defense, DHHS National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, World Health Organization, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the health authorities of Canada, United Kingdom, European Union, and others. Not only did Louisa serve on the editorial board of *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal* and several other journals, but she also chaired the publications committee of the Infectious Disease Society of America, and served as the vice chair of CDC's Surveillance Science Advisory Group.

As a person, Louisa was full of generosity, grace and grit. She put others before herself and was lavish in giving her time, her service and her resources to help others. Although the professional world knew her accomplishments well, she never paraded them before her friends. Her love and respect for others, her humility, her embracing nature and ability to forgive made her a quick friend to all. Once she was diagnosed with late stage cancer, she never indulged in self-pity, or wallowed in complaints, but fought back with humor and strength and continued to live life fully for another 8 years.

Louisa was a member of The Cathedral of St. Philip, where she enjoyed participating in Foyers Groups.

One of Louisa's favorite quotes was, "To thine own self be true." She lived that out each day.

She is survived by her sister, Martha Chapman of Raleigh, NC; her brother, John Chapman, Jr. of Denver, CO; her brother, Davis Chapman of Dallas, TX; several nieces, nephews, in-laws, and her dog, Balsam.

Louisa's life will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Monday, August 28, 2017 at The Cathedral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta. There will be a reception following.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Dr. John J. Chapman Endowed Scholarship at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR or the Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL.