

Alexander Michael, M.D.

During the high school football playoff season in 1986, quarterback Joe Dalpra broke his thumb. When Coach Glass took his player to the team doctor's home, Dr. Alexander Michael bought a football so he could mold the thumb cast around it. Joe was able to play in the playoff game at the Rubber Bowl that week – in large part because of the efforts of Dr. Michael.

Al was born in Canton, Ohio, in March of 1948. He was raised with his 4 brothers in Stark County where he attended Avondale and Whipple Elementary Schools and Jackson High School. He met his wife, Nancy, in the 6th grade and they began dating their sophomore year. At Jackson, Al lettered in baseball, basketball, and football before graduating in 1966. He worked in construction for his father until 1968 when he joined the Navy, worked as an Aviation

Electronics Radar technician, and received an honorable discharge.

Though he continued to work for Al Michael Construction, Al used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Akron where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975. Al moved his wife and daughters to New Orleans while he attended Tulane Medical School. He graduated in 1979 with his Medical Degree and passed the Ohio State Board exam to be a licensed M.D. in Ohio. Al and Nancy returned to Ohio with their three children – the girls attended North Canton schools. Al did his internship and residency in Akron's General and Children's hospitals with a focus on Orthopaedics. He was Chief Resident in 1984.

That same year, Dick Gross, one of the football coaches at Hoover and a family friend, asked Al to become a team physician on the sideline during football games. His first season in the capacity, the Vikings went to the Division 1 State Championship game in Ohio Stadium. Al would

spend the next 30 years on the sideline with Dr. Dave Schumaker and Jay Bishop – both Hall of Distinction inductees – keeping the team healthy. He worked with Coach Ed Glass, Coach Don Hertler, Jr., and others to create casts, padding, and braces that would help the players – both boys and girls in various sports – heal and play through the season and post season. Even though he is a Jackson graduate, he rooted for North Canton quietly during games.

While Al worked at Belden Village Orthopaedics, he established a free Walk-In Clinic on Saturday mornings to evaluate and treat players injured during Friday night games and practices during the week. In 1988, Al became a founding partner of Omni Orthopaedics where he worked until his retirement in 2013. In 2014, he began doing private Orthopaedic consulting in Florida and Ohio and, in 2016, Al founded Orthoclinic Consultants. Al had hospital

appointments at both Aultman Hospital and Mercy Medical Center from 1984 to 2013.

In addition to his work, Al has been active in the community. He was the team doctor for the indoor professional soccer team, the Canton Invaders, from 1984 to 1988. He was a member of the Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine and was an assistant clinical professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine – now NEOMED – from 1995 to 2013. He sponsors -- and has been the starter for -- the annual NFL Hall of Fame Run.

Al has been honored for his work. In 2003, he received the Ohio Outstanding Team Physician Award which requires 20 years of service, as well as a nomination and approval process. In 1988, he became a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He was a 1986 Diplomat at the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He was published

in the May 1988 issue of Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research regarding his study of the Medial Meniscus of the Knee.

Al and his wife Nancy have 4 children – Kim, Carie, Alec, and Dan – and 12 grandchildren. Al enjoys golf and spending time with his grandchildren.

Al Michael has been devoted to the health of our community. It is with much esteem that the North Canton Alumni Association receives Dr. Alexander Michael into its Hall of Distinction.