

= Robert Q. Marston =

Robert Quarles Marston ( February 12 , 1923 ? March 14 , 1999 ) was an American physician , research scientist , governmental appointee and university administrator . Marston was a native of Virginia , and , after earning his bachelor 's , medical and research degrees , he became a research scientist and medical professor . He served as the dean of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine , the director of the National Institutes of Health , and the president of the University of Florida .

= = Early life and education = =

He was born in Toano , Virginia , a small unincorporated community near Williamsburg , in 1923 . He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute ( VMI ) in Lexington , Virginia with a bachelor of science degree in 1944 . While attending the Medical College of Virginia ( MCV ) in Richmond , Virginia , he married Ann Carter Garnett in 1946 . Following his graduation from MCV with a doctor of medicine degree ( M.D. ) in 1947 , he received a Rhodes Scholarship to attend the University of Oxford in Oxford , England . While studying at Oxford 's Lincoln College , Marston worked under Nobel Prize @-@ winner Howard Florey , Norman Heatley and other scientists from the research team that developed penicillin as the first antibiotic , and graduated with a degree in research science .

= = Scientist , administrator , educator = =

After completing his internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore , Maryland , and a one @-@ year residency at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville , Tennessee , Marston joined the National Institutes of Health ( NIH ) as a medical researcher with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project , examining the infectious after @-@ effects of whole @-@ body irradiation , from 1951 to 1953 . He finished his residency at MCV in 1954 .

The Markle Foundation awarded Marston a grant as a " gifted practitioner " in the furtherance of his academic medical career . Thereafter , he taught for three years on the MCV faculty , and lectured at the University of Minnesota 's Medical School for a year as an assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology . He rejoined MCV in 1959 , as the assistant student affairs dean and an associate medical professor .

Marston was chosen to be the dean of the University of Mississippi 's School of Medicine and director of the university 's Medical Center in Jackson , Mississippi in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement in 1961 . Marston was hired with the tacit understanding that he would integrate the medical school and medical center to comply with Federal law and maintain the medical school 's accreditation . Under his politically understated guidance , and in the face of continued political opposition from Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett , his administration admitted the first African @-@ American medical students , hired the first black medical professor , integrated the medical center 's patients , and set new precedents for the non @-@ violent racial desegregation of Southern medical schools and teaching hospitals . Later , in 1965 , he was chosen to be the university 's vice chancellor .

He rejoined the NIH in 1966 , first as NIH associate director and the director of the fledgling Regional Medical Programs Division , charged with cancer , heart disease and stroke research . Then , during an April 1968 internal reorganization of NIH , he was selected to be the new administrator of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration . Only five months later , in September , Marston was chosen to be the NIH director .

During his last year as the NIH director , Marston became embroiled in a funding controversy with the Nixon administration , which wanted to place greater funding emphasis on a " war on cancer . " Marston believed that emphasizing one disease at the expense of other medical research was bad policy , and continued to support balanced , comprehensive funding priorities . He eventually resigned from NIH in April 1973 , after nearly five years as director . Afterward , he became a

scholar @-@ in @-@ residence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville , Virginia . The National Academy of Science 's Institute of Medicine named him as its inaugural distinguished fellow .

In 1974 , the Florida Board of Regents chose Marston as the seventh president of the University of Florida located in Gainesville , Florida ; he undertook the presidency during a time of economic recession , state budget cuts and increased demand for private funding of the university . During his ten @-@ year tenure , the university matured into one of the United States ' ten largest single @-@ campus universities and one of the five most inclusive in the scope of its academic programs , with significant growth in its sponsored research activities , and notable advancement of the university 's academic excellence and reputation . Marston 's accomplishments as university president included the organization of a non @-@ profit corporate structure for the management of Shands Hospital , helping establish the State of Florida 's Eminent Scholars Program , dramatically increasing the university 's private financial support , developing plans to recruit National Merit Scholars and National Achievement Scholars , and laying the organizational foundation for the University of Florida 's eventual membership in the Association of American Universities ( AAU ) .

After retiring as the University of Florida president emeritus in 1984 , Marston returned to the Virginia Military Institute as a distinguished scholar , and later served on VMI 's governing Board of Visitors during the controversy over the court @-@ ordered admission of women . In 1985 , he went back to the University of Florida faculty and conducted research and presented papers for the university 's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and its College of Medicine , co @-@ edited The Medical Implications of Nuclear War on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences , and served as the chairman of the Safety Advisory Committee for the Clean @-@ Up of Three Mile Island . He also accepted the chairmanship of the Florida Marine Fishery Commission , tasked with the governance of the state 's saltwater fishing industry and guardianship of its resources .

As a well @-@ known leader in several national medical organizations and university associations , Marston was elected leader of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges , an Association of American Medical Colleges Distinguished Service Member , and a member of the board of governors of the Institute of Medicine . He was also appointed to the corporate boards of the Hospital Corporation of America , Johnson & Johnson , and Wackenhut .

= = Legacy = =

Marston is prominently remembered for his role in desegregating the University of Mississippi medical school , his stewardship of the National Institutes of Health , and his advancement of the academic reputation and standing of the University of Florida . In recognition of his prior work as a medical research scientist and his success in promoting the University of Florida as a major national research university , the Florida Legislature dedicated the university 's new Marston Science Library in his name in 1987 .

Marston died in Gainesville , Florida , on March 14 , 1999 ; he was 76 years old . His daughter , two sons , and six grandchildren survived him . His wife , Ann Carter Garnett Marston , died the previous year ; they were married for fifty @-@ one years .