



**THE
BELINDA MASON CARDEN
AND
PAUL MASON
PROFESSORSHIP AND CHAIR IN
HIV/AIDS RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION**



**FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**



**The Belinda Mason Carden
and
Paul Mason
Professorship and Chair
in HIV/AIDS Research and Education**

The Honorable Paul Mason, who represented the 91st House District in Kentucky, was widely recognized for serving the people of eastern Kentucky without seeking personal gain or the political spotlight. Rep. Mason died unexpectedly in December, 1998 as a result of a brain aneurysm after pancreatic surgery. He is described by colleagues as a friend to the poor and helpless.

During his distinguished twelve-year legislative career, Rep. Mason championed legislation to combat major health problems and poverty. He was an advocate for new laws focused on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and protecting those who have the disease from discrimination. His daughter, Belinda Mason Carden, died of AIDS in 1991 at the age of 33. She contracted HIV, which causes AIDS, through a blood transfusion during the birth of her second child.

Belinda and Rep. Mason joined hands to educate physicians, politicians, and the people of Kentucky about how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Together, they promoted medical research to treat HIV/AIDS patients, particularly in rural Kentucky, hoping they would live to see a cure.

Former President George Bush appointed Belinda to the National Commission on AIDS. She was the only member on the distinguished panel infected with the virus. At one time, Belinda had criticized the Bush administration for viewing AIDS as a moral problem rather than a public health matter.



PROFESSORSHIP AND CHAIR WILL BENEFIT KENTUCKIANS

Inspired by the vision and passion of Belinda and Rep. Paul Mason's advocacy for HIV/AIDS research and treatment for rural Kentuckians, friends and colleagues have established an endowed Professorship and Chair in their honor at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. The endowment will be used to:

- honor the memory of Belinda Mason Carden and Rep. Paul Mason in perpetuity;
- make Kentucky a national leader in HIV/AIDS research;
- enhance the quality of health care delivery for citizens of Kentucky with or at risk for HIV/AIDS;
- optimize preventive and educational opportunities about HIV/AIDS for Kentucky's physicians and the people of the Commonwealth.

Rep. Mason's political colleagues and friends characterized him as having a love for "the little people." Whenever people were hungry, he saw that they had food. If youth needed jobs, he found work for them. Among his greatest accomplishments was his advocacy to pass state laws to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to educate others about the disease.

The Belinda Mason Carden and Paul Mason Professorship and Chair in HIV/AIDS at the University of Kentucky will ensure their vision continues. The individual appointed to the Mason Chair will have a national and international reputation in HIV/AIDS related patient care, research and education.

The distinguished professor will be expected to:

- expand major research efforts in HIV/AIDS at the University of Kentucky;
- enhance the delivery of exceptional HIV/AIDS patient care for the people of Kentucky, especially in rural areas;
- conduct HIV/AIDS educational programs for health care professionals and the people of Kentucky.

HIV/AIDS IN KENTUCKY

The AIDS epidemic continues to expand in Kentucky. As of December, 1998, 2,768 Kentuckians had been diagnosed with AIDS. Up to 10 times that number are thought to be infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Increasing numbers of women and children in the Commonwealth have HIV infection and AIDS, and rural Kentuckians have unique problems accessing appropriate care for HIV infection and AIDS.

Rep. Mason knew there was much work to be done, but he did not have time to finish it. Completing the funding of the endowed professorship and chair named in honor of Rep. Mason and Belinda, offers an opportunity for friends of Rep. Mason to fulfill his dream—curing AIDS in Kentucky.

A CHALLENGE TO FULFULL REP. MASON'S DREAM

Initial gifts of \$20,000 have been made to initiate the Belinda Carden Mason and Paul Mason Professorship and Chair in HIV/AIDS Research. Monica and Herman Greenberg of Washington, D.C., have contributed \$10,000. Their gift was inspired by the University of Kentucky's efforts in HIV/AIDS research and education, and to help elevate UK to a position of national leadership. The UK Center for Rural Health has made a gift of \$10,000 to honor the memory of their special friend Rep. Mason and his beloved daughter Belinda.

A minimum of \$100,000 must be raised to create an endowed professorship. Belinda Mason Carden and Paul Mason fought gallantly to offer hope and improve the quality of life for Kentuckians with HIV/AIDS by promoting treatment, education and research of the disease. The University of Kentucky shares that dream and will offer new hope through innovative approaches to therapy and research to conquer AIDS and improve the quality of life for people with the disease. Please help us honor the memories of Belinda and Rep. Mason by using the attached gift form to make a gift and pledge.