

Dr. Rebecca Allison was an inspiring physician and transgender advocate, known for her work in both cardiology and the LGBTQ+ community.

Dr. Allison, or Dr. Becky as many knew her, made a profound impact, not only through her distinguished career as a cardiologist but also through her unwavering dedication to advocating for the rights and well-being of transgender individuals.

Her medical expertise has saved innumerable lives, but it is her courage, resilience, and leadership in the face of adversity that truly set her apart. As a transgender woman herself, Dr. Allison has broken barriers in the medical field, proving that authenticity and excellence can go hand in hand. She used her platform to advance equality, championing the inclusion and dignity of all people, regardless of gender identity.

I first met Becky in 2007 at the GLMA conference in Puerto Rico. She encouraged me to consider board service and join a movement to improve LGBTQ+ health. I joined the board while Becky was GLMA president was witness to her leadership, wry humor, and compassion. She was the first openly visible, transgender person to lead GLMA and not only was she a trailblazer, but also she navigated GLMA through some challenging times, including an executive director transition, staff reductions and sustaining our work during a period of reduced revenue sources. Through all of this, Becky was unflappable.

In 2012, Dr. Allison was honored by the Human Rights Campaign of AZ for her many achievements and visibility. Becky described how she lived her life in a video interview for the HRC of AZ.

“Twenty years ago when I was making my transition, the conventional wisdom was that a person would go through the transition process and then drop out and blend into society and find a good man and settle down. I didn’t want to lose all my friends that I had made in the community by blending into society and I certainly wasn’t interested in settling down with a man. So I decided to remain an out transgender lesbian person.”

Becky created the website drbecky.com in 1998 which was an important source of information for those going through their gender journey and touched countless lives. Dr. Allison's work with organizations like the GLMA, American Medical Association, and her advocacy in public health have fostered greater understanding and respect for the LGBTQ+ community. She reminds us that our true impact is measured not only by our professional accomplishments but by the lives we touch and the change we inspire.

Please join me and Becky's wife Margaux who was unable to join us today in honoring and celebrating Dr. Rebecca Allison, a true pioneer and visionary in LGBTQ+ health