



# CLASS OF 2018 INDUCTEE



## Dr. Chuck Aragon

Chuck Aragon was an American former middle-distance runner who specialized in the 1500 meters and the mile. One of the premier accomplishments in the world of sport is running a sub-four minute "Miracle Mile"; a feat so elusive that there have been only five native New Mexicans who have ever done so. Los Lunas' Chuck Aragon is at the top of that small fraternity. His time of 3:51.6 run in the "Dream Mile" in Oslo, Norway in 1984 ranks him 14th on the all time USA listing, just behind the legendary Jim Ryan (12th) and ahead of American greats Marty Liquori, David Wottle and Rick Wohluter.

As a prepster at Los Lunas High, Chuck was a five-time state champion in track and cross-country, who as a senior ran the fastest prep 800 meters (1:50.8) in the country. A Los Lunas local, Ambrose Sanchez, took interest in Aragon's running. He once asked Aragon where he would like to go to college, and when Aragon told him he planned to attend University of New Mexico as an undergrad, Sanchez called Notre Dame coach Joe Piane and suggested that he scout Aragon. Piane visited Aragon, and Aragon was offered an athletics scholarship, which he accepted.

Upon graduation he attended the University of Notre Dame where he became a two-time all-American in Track & Field. He was the first Notre Dame athlete to break the four-minute barrier in the mile and is still the school record holder at 1500 meters (3:38.8). A Pan Am Games bronze medalist, Chuck narrowly missed making the USA Olympic Team (4th at the trials by .500 of a second in a photo finish) in a race that featured four of the top seven milers in the world.

A graduate of UNM's School of Medicine, Chuck has been a practicing anesthesiologist at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana for the past 20+ years. He has served as Chief of Staff, President of the Medical Staff and Chair of the Hospital's Board of Directors. Chuck has given back in many ways, but probably none more important than serving as the lead anesthesiologist for the Smile Network, an organization which provides free lip and cleft palate restructuring for young children throughout Latin America.

Chuck and his wife Kathleen, who was a world class marathoner, have three children. Alexa and Danielle have both earned all-America status in track and field for the Irish and present high school junior Christina is already a six time state champion and one of the top ranked milers in the country.

