



+ VANGUARD OF MEDICAL INNOVATION + **STOKES WIRE-BASKET STRETCHER**



The **Stokes wire-basket stretcher** is one of the oldest **medical devices in continuous use** by the U.S. Armed Forces.



First exhibited at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, it was conceived by the Navy physician Medical Director **Charles Francis Stokes** (1863-1931) who witnessed first-hand the difficulties of transporting wounded through a Navy ship's gauntlet of gangways, ladders and hatches while serving in the Spanish-American War.



In **January 1906**, the Stokes stretcher was **adopted by the Army and Navy** for use aboard hospital ships, transports and at "seacoast artillery stations."



Today, the Stokes stretcher, is **still in use throughout the world** and a testament to the staying power of one Navy physician's great idea.

