

Archives

Steven P. Geiermann, DDS

Appointment

CAPT James A. Lipton, DDS, PhD, is now serving as full-time senior advisor to Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, chief dental officer of the US Public Health Service, in direct response to the increased changes associated with DHHS Secretary Tommy Thompson's transformation of the Commissioned Corps announced last July. Dr. Lipton earned his DDS from Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and a PhD in sociomedical sciences from the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He served on the faculties at Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and New York University College of Dentistry before being commissioned in the PHS, where he worked in the Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH. Dr. Lipton has experience within both the regional and central offices of the Public Health Service and has chaired its Dental Professional Advisory Committee. He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, held positions in many professional and scientific organizations, and authored or coauthored over 70 clinical and research publications and abstracts.

Obituaries

RADM Lireka P. Joseph, MPH, DrPH, chief professional officer for the Scientist Category of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, daughter of Louis (deceased) and Martha Joseph, died February 17, 2004. She concurrently served as the director of the Office of Health and Industry Programs within the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the Food and Drug Administration addressing critical communication, education, and policy interpretation for stakeholders nationally and internationally. As the chief professional officer, RADM Joseph oversaw the USPHS scientist officers and provided advice to the Surgeon General. Among her many honors, RADM Joseph re-



Lireka P. Joseph

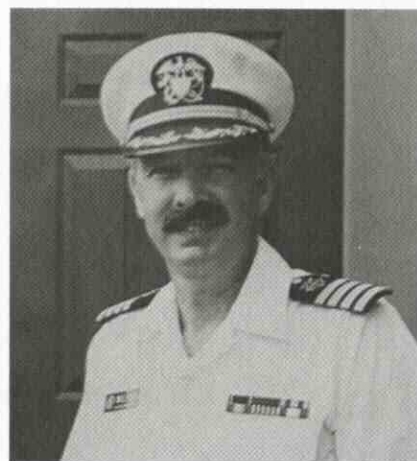
ceived a Distinguished Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal, two Outstanding Service Medals, a PHS Citation, two Outstanding Unit Citations, and 10 Unit Commendations. Prior to her 21 years in the Public Health Service, she taught and administered programs in dental epidemiology for dental and dental hygiene students. She received her BS, MPH, and DrPH degrees from the University of Michigan. RADM Lireka P. Joseph is survived by her mother, Martha A. Joseph; brother, Andrew R. Joseph; sister-in-law, Lynda Terova Joseph; nephews, Louis T. Joseph and Andrew W. Joseph; and her dear friends, the Kleinman family. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 43025, 8219 Town Center Drive, Baltimore, MD 21236-0025.

CAPT (retired) E. Walter Wolford, DDS, MPH, died peacefully at home on February 6, 2004. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1965 with a DDS degree and was a member of the National Dental Honorary Society Omicron Kappa Upsilon. After graduation, Dr. Wolford entered the Public Health Service instead of private practice, because "95% of dentists provide care for 33% of the population; I chose to serve

the other 67%."

He entered the Indian Health Service (IHS) in 1966 after serving a PHS internship. His first assignment was working in a mobile dental trailer in Sisseton, South Dakota. His exceptional organizational abilities and self-motivation soon became apparent to his commanding officers. They questioned how anyone could accomplish so much with such limited resources and be so efficient without diminishing quality. This spawned his intense interest in studying and developing effective quality assurance measures and efficient methods for providing dental care throughout his career with the IHS. In his second assignment at Lapwai, Idaho (1968-70), Dr. Wolford's interest in public health and natural talent for management enabled him to reorganize the dental supply purchasing system, as well as revising the training of dental auxiliaries in four-handed dentistry.

Dr. Wolford transferred to the USPHS Division of Dentistry in 1970 to complete formal public health training. After receiving his MPH from Johns Hopkins University in 1973, he joined the staff of the Division of Dental Health, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. This was a period of intense activity in dental public health with the War on Poverty in full swing and a cascade of new federal health professional legislation



E. Walter Wolford

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