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Archives

Steven P. Geiermann, DDS

Obituary

John K. Peterson, DDS, MPH, former state dental director in North Dakota and public health dentist, died September 25, 2007 in Bismarck, ND. He was 86 years old. John was a 1945 DDS graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he also received his MPH in 1950. After five years of private dental practice and service in the Army Dental Corps, he was appointed Assistant Chief, Section of Dental Health for the state of Minnesota (1950-57), and then director of the Division of Dental Health, North Dakota, which he held until his retirement (1957-85).

Dr. Peterson was very active in the dental public health community. He served as a member of the American Board of Dental Public Health from 1963 to 1967. He was president of ABDPH in 1967. He was president of American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) in 1968 and of both the North Dakota Public Health Association and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors in 1971. He was active in organized dentistry, serving as president of the North Dakota State Dental Association and as a consultant for the Council on Dental Therapeutics and the Council on Dental Research within the American Dental Association.

Dr. Peterson was recognized by the Oral Health Section of the

American Public Health Association by receiving its prestigious John W. Knutson Award in 1988. In 1998, he was bestowed the AAPHD Distinguished Service Award. John was a dedicated and skilled researcher whose efforts impacted not only North Dakotans but many Americans. In 1986, when North Dakota was celebrating its centennial, John was asked to reflect on changes in oral health. He said, "...overall oral health has improved dramatically. The use of fluoride dentifrice is almost universal. I think this was a major public health accomplishment, and I am proud to have been a contributor to it."

Awards

RADM Dushanka Kleinman (retired) was the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest honor conferred by the American Dental Association's Board of Trustees. Dr. Kleinman is a Diplomat of the American Board of Dental Public Health. She has served in the capacity of president of the American Association of Women Dentists, the American Board of Dental Public Health, and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. She is currently Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs, College of Health and Human Performance, University of Maryland College Park, and has an appointment

as a professor in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department of the College, which is transitioning to a School of Public Health.

CAPT Steven P. Geiermann was the recipient of the USPHS Commissioned Corps Meritorious Service Medal for his notable professional accomplishments and unusually high quality of leadership in support of the dental public health infrastructure. He was also recognized by the National Network for Oral Health Access with its 2007 Outstanding Leadership Award. Dr. Geiermann is a HRSA regional dental consultant serving within the Office of Performance Review, Chicago Regional Division.

Myron Allukian, DDS, MPH, was recognized as a 2007 Alumni Award of Merit Winner by the Harvard School of Public Health's Alumni Council. Dr. Allukian was acknowledged as a legend in his field. An early champion of water fluoridation, he has helped bring better oral health to millions of people in the United States and abroad. Dr. Allukian is the former director of the Bureau of Community Dental Programs at the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals and former president of the American Public Health Association.

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