

1996 AAPHD ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

1996 Special Recognition Award: Division of Dental Health, Virginia Department of Health, on the Occasion of its 75th Anniversary

Presented by Rhys Jones, DDS, MS, Immediate Past-president

It is my pleasure, as your immediate past-president, to welcome you to the AAPHD Awards and Installation Luncheon. Our initial award presentation this afternoon is in the program achievement category. Two years ago then Chief Dental Officer Skip Collins accepted an AAPHD award in commemoration of the 75th year of service of the Public Health Service Dental Corps. North Carolina's dental program was honored a few years ago for its 75 years of achievement as the nation's first state dental program.

Now it's Virginia's turn. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the first dental public health program in Virginia. Would JoAnn Wells and Joe Doherty come forward. JoAnn is a dental public health hygienist for the Division of Dental Health, Virginia State Health Department, and Joe is the retired dental director from the state of Virginia. Joe did not know he was going to be up here today, but I think it is appropriate for him to be here also because of his 17 years of service to Virginia.

The *Virginia Dental Journal* also honored the program in its July 1996 issue and I'll excerpt some of that journal's article. In 1921 Dr. Tally Ballou was appointed dental director of the Bureau of Mouth Hygiene, making Virginia the second state dental program in the nation. State dental programs were formed originally because of the realization that dental caries was a ma-



At the AAPHD Annual Meeting, the Division of Dental Health of the Virginia State Health Department was presented with a plaque commemorating 75 years of service to the people of Virginia. Dr. Rhys Jones, AAPHD immediate past-president (left), presented the plaque to Ms. JoAnn Wells and Dr. Joseph Doherty.

major public health problem affecting every segment of society. During the early years, services provided for children included screenings, cleanings, restorations, and extractions. The total state budget was \$9,000 the first year of the program. Two full-time and two part-time dentists provided services

for 4,800 children in the first year. Today the state program has 57 full-time and part-time dentists, 70 dental assistants, and five dental hygienists providing services in 67 localities. JoAnn and Joe, I present this plaque from AAPHD in honor of the Virginia dental public health program.