

1996 President's Award: Robert J. Collins, DMD, MPH

Presented by Joseph Doherty, DDS, MPH, Special Consultant to the President

In one of Dennis Leverett's last communications to me, he asked me to personally present the Presidential Award this year and I am very pleased to be able to do so on his behalf.

The President's Award was established to honor an individual who, in the eyes of the president, had assisted the association in a special way during the past year.

Dennis wrote that

... the association's ability to survive and thrive has seldom been shown in a better light than during the past year. Because of my illness I found it impossible to fulfill my duties and responsibilities as president. Those of you who have held that office in the past are well enough aware that it is formidable. In these days of heightened political activity and enhanced communication capabilities, the potential for the Executive Council and especially the office of the presidency to augment the stature of the AAPHD in organized dentistry is limited only by their enthusiasm, talent, and hard work. In today's context, of course, we are talking about these characteristics in the president-elect, Dr. Robert J. "Skip" Collins. Without Skip's willingness—in fact, enthusiasm—for accepting the responsibilities of the office of president



Dr. Robert Collins (left) accepted the AAPHD President's Award. Dr. Joseph Doherty (right) presented the award at the request of Dr. Dennis Leverett.

not for just one year, but for two, we would be hard-pressed to demonstrate an effective association at this point in time.

Dennis wanted to honor you today, Skip, as do we, by presenting you with this well-earned President's Award for 1996.

1996 Public Service Award: Assemblywoman Jackie Speier

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

The Public Service Award is presented to Jackie Speier, state assemblywoman from California. Unfortunately, Jackie's busy legislative schedule does not permit her to be here personally today. Dr. Robert Isman, dental program consultant with the

California Department of Health Services, will accept the award for Jackie and will present it to her at a future forum in California.

Jackie Speier was personally responsible for authoring the legislation and providing the leadership that led

to the October 1995 passage of the California statewide fluoridation bill, Assembly Bill 733. Individuals nationally and from California who worked on the fluoridation initiative all agreed that it would not have been successful without Jackie's leadership.

AB733 orders the California Department of Health Services to adopt regulations that require the fluoridation of the water of any public water system in California that has at least 10,000 service connections (approximately 25,000 population). This legislation is truly a significant health and political achievement. California, the nation's largest state in terms of population size, ranks as one of the lowest states in percent of population on public water systems consuming optimally fluoridated water. Only eight other states have mandated statewide fluoridation laws. Each state varies somewhat on minimum population and funding requirements. The list of states and the year that mandated legislation was passed is as follows: Connecticut, 1965; Illinois and Minnesota, 1967; Michigan, 1968; Ohio and South Dakota, 1969; and Nebraska and Georgia, 1973. It took 22 years to add the ninth state, California. That would not have been possible without Jackie Speier's legislative efforts.

Two Republican governors have signed into law 162 bills by Democrat State Assemblywoman Jackie Speier during her nine years of service in the state assembly. Her legislative success rate is "Ruthian," according to a 1993 *Los Angeles Times* article noting that her bills were considered "significant changes in the law."

Jackie, first elected to the California State Assembly in November 1986, has championed laws that have significantly increased collection of delinquent child support payments, set up statewide early AIDS intervention programs, curtailed workers' compensation fraud, banned smoking in state buildings, and raised millions of



Jackie Speier

dollars for breast cancer research and child abuse prevention programs.

For five years Jackie chaired the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, where her investigations uncovered acts of waste and fraud. The bills she has introduced cover a wide range and protect Californians from travel fraud, telemarketing scams, unfair funeral practices, illegal stock transactions, inaccurate credit reports, and gender discrimination in pricing of services and the resale of vehicles. In January 1996, she released a 30-page primer on how consumers can avoid the common causes of fraud. This government best seller is on the Internet as "Top Ten Consumer Complaints."

Jackie, who represents the 19th Assembly District (San Mateo County), is serving her fifth and final term in the assembly, having been nominated by both Republicans and Democrats in the 1994 primary. This dual party nomination is a tribute to her popular-

ity.

Her tenacious approach to representing her constituents and legislating stems from a brush with death in 1978. At that time, Speier, legal counsel to Congressman Leo J. Ryan, accompanied Ryan to Jonestown, Guyana, to investigate rumors that people (many with families in the Bay Area) were being held hostage by cult leader the Rev. Jim Jones. On November 18, cult followers shot and killed Congressman Ryan—Jackie was struck by five bullets. Later that day, 911 cult members died. Speier has said the Jonestown tragedy is a daily reminder that "no one is guaranteed tomorrow ... and this has absolutely molded my philosophy and my zest for work and life."

Two years after the Jonestown shootings, Jackie won her first election by defeating a 20-year incumbent for a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. She was reelected and named chair of the board in 1985.

Jackie has been named "Consumer Advocate of the Year" by Consumer Action and "Legislator of the Year" by numerous organizations—including the California State Bar Association, the California National Organization for Women, and the Girl Scouts of America. *Focus* magazine put her on its list of the Bay Area's "Best and Brightest." She is the first member of the California legislature to give birth while in office. Born in San Francisco, Jackie earned a BA from the University of California at Davis and graduated from UC's Hastings College of Law in 1976.

At this time, will Dr. Isman please come forward to accept the award for Jackie Speier.

Remarks on Receiving the Public Service Award

Jackie Speier

I am delighted to receive the Public Service Award from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and regret that I am unable to attend your fine event this year.

When I first introduced my proposal to fluoridate California's drinking water, Assembly Bill 733, I was

astonished that the subject of fluoridation could still be the subject of such heated debate as we enter the third millennium.

Given the controversial nature of this issue, it was a pleasant surprise to discover that the support for fluoridating California's drinking water finally

outmatched the ferocity of the opposition and that ultimately medical science triumphed over the sensationalism of the antifluoridationists. Since AB 733 became law last year, things are finally back to normal in our office. While we still have our share of angry individuals who write to me and say