

Presentation of Award

Rhys Jones, DDS, MS, Immediate Past President

It is my pleasure, in the role of immediate past president, to officially present the Distinguished Service Award to the team of Joe and Helen Doherty. My role as prescribed by our moderator, Myron, is to be official, in contrast to our other presenters here today. We have all heard today about the Doherty team and all they have done for the good of AAPHD. However, we would be remiss by not "officially" recognizing the distinguished career of Joe Doherty and what he has done for the good of dental public health. Yes, Joe, we need to justify that you, on your own merit, are qualified for AAPHD's highest honor, and that your name should go on a list with the likes of Galagan, Schoen, Dunning, Striffler, and Knutson.

Joe Doherty received his DDS degree from the University of Detroit in 1958 and his MPH degree from the University of Minnesota in 1962. The MPH degree came following a three-year period as a public health dentist in North Carolina and Virginia. He left dental school for North Carolina with his new bride, Helen, having stolen her from the dean's office, where she was employed as a secretary. Helen said they always closed the door when they talked about Joe.

Joe and Helen moved from North Carolina to Virginia and then to Wisconsin in 1965 and resided in Madison for 12 years. In Wisconsin at the Division of Health, Joe advanced from public health dentist, to deputy chief, to acting state dental director of the dental division. In 1977 Joe accepted the dental director position with the Virginia State Health Department, a position he held until retirement in 1994. In consultation with our AAPHD official historian Joe Doherty, Joe is only the fifth state dental director in history to receive the Distinguished Service Award.

My own personal association with Joe began in 1985, when I assumed the position of state dental director in Wisconsin, eight years after Joe left the state. From my initial Association of



The Dohertys receiving the Distinguished Service Award (left to right): Skip Collins, Helen Doherty, Joe Doherty, Rhys Jones.

State and Territorial Dental Directors meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, Joe was my mentor. His knowledge of and family ties to Wisconsin were still very strong. Throughout my time of service in Wisconsin, Joe was of great assistance as he was to all of the new and younger state dental directors in the 1980s—directors like Greg Connolly, Mike Easley, Joe Alderman, Bob Isman, Ray Kuthy, Dick Hastreiter, Dean Perkins, Nana Lopez, Jack Dillenberg, and Mark Siegal.

Joe in Virginia was the director with a model statewide program of prevention and treatment for vulnerable populations. In other words, he had money. He also had a broad-based constituency that he developed and nurtured. What a coincidence, to have a broad-based constituency and have program dollars for oral health. He is the example of success through constituency support.

Joe has had academic appointments and taught at the dental schools of Marquette University and Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry. For several years he was a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan

School of Public Health and has lectured at the School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina.

Joe held many elected positions throughout his career. These include:

- president of the Wisconsin Public Health Association,
- president of the Richmond Dental Society,
- president-elect of the Dane County/Madison Dental Society,
- president of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors,
- president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, and
- president of the American Board of Dental Public Health.

Awards for Joe are also many and include:

- the President's Award from AAPHD by Linda Niessen,
- Outstanding Achievement Award from ASTDD,
- two Exemplary Service Awards from the US Public Health Service,
- Certificate of Appreciation from the Wisconsin Dental Association in 1977,
- Certificate of Appreciation from the Commission of Health of the Vir-

ginia State Health Department for dedicated and meritorious service,

—Certificate of Appreciation from the Public Health Dentists, Hygienists and Assistants of the Virginia State Health Department, and

—Public Health Recognition Award from the Virginia Public Health Association.

Joe was recently honored by the establishment of the Joseph M. Doherty Dental Public Health Award by the Division of Dental Health of the Virginia State Health Department. This award is given each year to the dental employee of the year in the state health department.

Committee and consulting work in dental public health are too numerous to mention. Consider it a fact that every committee associated with AAPHD in recent years has had Joe's mark. Every president, every officer, every Executive Council member has had to "check with Joe" before proceeding to see if they were heading in the right direction. And then Joe had to check with Helen.

Joe's curriculum vitae also has numerous publications. In closing, I will only mention one, but that one stands out in time: a publication known worldwide and cited by students, faculty, and by thousands of people who worked for fluoridation. That one

publication has fluoridated many a community and kept many more from defluoridating. Published in the April 1970 *Journal of the American Dental Association*, entitled "Controlled Fluoridation: the Dental Effects of Discontinuance in Antigo, WI." That one publication is a true and lasting legacy for Joe and Helen relative to all the work they have done for dental public health.

So, Joe and Helen, on behalf of all the children with healthy teeth in Antigo, WI, and on behalf of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, we thank you for all that you have done. Congratulations.