

lala to strengthen oral health activities within the Health Resources and Services Administration, and supported funding for dental public health residencies.

The term "public health" is an integral part of Kennedy's lexicon. He pays attention to public health outcomes and consistently supports adequate appropriations for agencies dealing with public health problems. A review of his public statements over just this past year reflects his concern for public health. A few examples include support for grants to combat domestic violence and to promote drug-free communities, opposition to special liability protection for the tobacco

industry, support for FDA's authority to regulate tobacco, support for improved child safety laws, and leadership in seeking basic health care coverage for all Americans.

Senator Edward Kennedy is the youngest of nine children of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. He received a BA from Harvard in 1956 and a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1959. He is married to Victoria R. Kennedy and is the father of five children. He was elected to the Senate in 1962 to complete President J.F. Kennedy's term, and has been re-elected six times. In the Senate, he is a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, a committee critical to

public health concerns. He also is the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Joint Economic Committees.

AAPHD is proud to recognize Senator Kennedy for his more than 30 years of consistent support for public health. He was unable to be here to receive this award, but we are planning to present it to him next year in his Washington office.

I would like to extend special thanks to the AADR legislative consultant, Nick Cavarocchi, who served as liaison with Senator Kennedy's office and who is helping to set up the appointment in January.

## 1998 Special Merit Award: Marsha Cunningham, RDH, MS

Presented by Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DDS, MPH

The AAPHD Special Merit Award is presented to an individual for special meritorious service to public health dentistry. This year, AAPHD recognizes the tireless dedication of Marsha Cunningham who has been editor of the association's newsletter, *Communique*, since 1984. The *Communique* remains our primary means of regular communication with the membership and its timely production and high quality are a direct reflection of Marsha's efforts and dedication. As editor, Marsha also serves as a nonvoting member of AAPHD's Executive Council, where her soft-spoken but sound advice is much appreciated.

Too often, we take services like our newsletter for granted, but without the ongoing efforts of Marsha, it wouldn't happen! Not the least of her tasks is constantly reminding officers and other authors about deadlines. This task requires lots of flexibility and patience. For example, during my presidency of AAPHD, Marsha would call regarding the president's message deadline, and I would always beg for

more time. She would respond: "Okay, tell me how many pages you need." I would usually say, "oh, just one," and then later would give her two or three! Somehow Marsha always adjusted.

Marsha Cunningham is associate professor at the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, University of Iowa. She received her RDH and MS in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, in 1976 and 1979, respectively. She has served on the board of directors for United Way, Johnson County, Iowa. She is active in health services and educational research, efforts that have produced two book chapters, 16 journal articles, five monographs, and numerous abstracts from presentations at AAPHD, AADS, and IADR meetings. Marsha has developed an interactive computer simulation related to care of geriatric patients.

Marsha is married to Dennis Ford, who is here today. It has been said that if one wants to get a job done, look for someone who is already busy. I am



Skip Collins and Marsha Cunningham

happy to note that the AAPHD Executive Council has approved, and Marsha has accepted, a new three-year assignment as newsletter editor.

Marsha, please accept the Special Merit Award as a token of our gratitude for all you have done and continue to do for AAPHD.