

Services and director of Research and Evaluation for Healthco, Inc., in Soul City, NC—at that time a new 314e Comprehensive Health Care Center that required an interim health services facility. He was recruited to the position of chief of Dental Services for Seattle-King County's Department of Public Health in 1974 and spent 11 years leading campaigns to preserve as well as initiate water fluoridation and expanded preventive services programs. Once again Cas held other positions—as the director, King County Health Services Division, where he developed the operations of the newly created division and directed the provision and expansion of public health services. In 1985, Cas accepted the position as assistant director of Health Services and director, Public Health Programs and Services, LA County Department of Health Services with a budget of \$340 million and a staff of 3,200 FTEs. His efforts led to the expansion of services in community prevention, including tobacco and alcohol cessation and prevention, cancer prevention, and injury and violence control. His sentinel efforts led to the successful decision to fluoridate the city of Los Angeles' municipal water supply. He launched Public Health Week, now an event that is nationally celebrated. He also founded the Health and Faith Coalition of Greater LA—and in 1996 expanded this to the national level when

he founded the APHA Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community.

Cas has always maintained a role as an educator and leader. He currently holds teaching appointments at the UCLA Schools of Public Health and Dentistry, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and is a visiting professor of dentistry at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery. He also has had appointments at the University of North Carolina, University of Washington, and Boston University. He has been president of the American Public Health Association, the Washington State Public Health Association, and currently is the president-elect of the American Board of Dental Public Health. He has been a board member of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, US Conference of Local Health Officers, US-Mexico Border Health Association, and Washington State Association of Black Health Care Professionals (founding member). Dr. Evans' expertise for advisory committees has been solicited by most of the Department of Health and Human Services' agencies, regional offices, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. He has provided input to such issues as injury prevention, AIDS, cancer prevention, management of hazardous materials, health care in penitentiaries, oversight for minority and disadvantaged individuals, Head Start, National Health

Services Corps, among others.

Cas has received many prestigious honors nationally and internationally. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, is an honorary fellow in the Royal Society of Health, and is a fellow in the International College of Dentists. Most recently he was a visiting consultant to the British Fluoridation Society, where he presented to the British House of Parliament. He has been recognized by federal and state agencies, professional organizations, and community-based groups for his extensive work in prevention, childhood immunizations, leadership in cancer prevention, environmental health, and his leadership and excellence in public health.

I know that all the individuals who have had the most impact on his life must be so proud of all that he has achieved—his Uncle Collis, who guided his understanding of politics and community; Philip Randolph, who demonstrated purpose and dignity for him and for whom Cas was a paper boy; Irv Mandel, who gave him a means to focus his interests; and Arlene, who “keeps him whole and on track.”

We are delighted to be able to add to Cas' many honors with this AAPHD 2001 Special Merit Award in recognition of his contribution to the first Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health.

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## Remarks on Receiving the 2001 Special Merit Award

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### Caswell A. Evans, DDS, MPH

Greetings and thank you. Receiving the 2001 Special Merit Award from this association is a sweet moment, indeed. Here, and in the presence of so many friends and people with whom I have worked over the years, I feel an especially warm glow in receiving this honor. To be recognized for worthy contributions to our field and to also share this moment of acknowledgment with your other awardees—Brian Burt, Skip Collins, and Surgeon

General Satcher—is something to be treasured.

In accepting this award, I must point out that nothing I have ever done has been accomplished working alone. As has been your experience, I am sure, collaboration, partnership, and mutual support are requisites to any accomplishment in public health. That was certainly so with the work that went into completion of “Oral Health in America: A Report of the

Surgeon General.” Many of you in this room today were major contributors to this effort, and the “Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health” could not have been completed without you. Particularly notable were the contributions of Dushanka Kleinman and Bill Maas. Consequently, this experience is yet another lesson underscoring our need to work collaboratively. Too often, and with good intentions, we sing to ourselves and work in constant, familiar

circles.

The reception and interest that have been shown the "Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health" is a strong reminder that we have a broad and concerned public audience for our message. We have full opportunity to develop successful partnerships that reach deep into the communities we serve, with the intention of improving oral health. Even though the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health tells us that oral health conditions for large

segments of this nation's population are good, the report also points to the fact that other segments of our population experience disturbing disparities in oral health status. I urge you all to use the opportunity that the report represents to its fullest. Use the report as a tool. Quote from it. Build proposals and rationales based upon its findings and content; squeeze it for all that it is worth. After all, these are the words of the Surgeon General of the United States addressing oral health

status and needs in this country. I feel privileged to have had an opportunity to impart leadership, and be part of the process, that brought those words forward to the attention of the American public. It is also a privilege to have had the opportunity to represent you in this process and share in the satisfaction of having such a unique report document, and tool, now in hand. Finally, it is a great privilege and honor to receive this recognition today. Once again, thank you.