

public health residency training by Congress.

I wish to give a special thanks to my parents for the values they inculcated in me. My father died several years ago, 10 days short of 102 years; my mother, aged 93, is here today. I also wish to thank my family, my wife and six children, for their understanding and patience for all my absences from home.

The Future

There is still much to be done. Our realities and priorities as a nation have changed since September 11, 2001. We in dental public health must be more ingenious, better organized, and more focused than ever before.

- Oral health must become a much higher priority in our country. We need a population-based approach to respond to this neglected epidemic.
- The dental public health infrastructure in our country needs to be

strengthened in every state, major city, rural county, and in the federal government.

- Fluoridation must be a much higher priority in our country. It is unacceptable that over 100 million Americans do not have the health and economic benefits of fluoridation.

- School dental sealant programs must be available to every high-risk child in our country.

- Dental care programs such as Medicaid must be for families, not children only. Just as we can't separate the mouth from the body, we can't separate the child from the family.

- As more individuals become involved in oral health programs, dental public health science and practice should provide the framework for action.

- We need to attract more of the best and brightest of our students into dental public health.

- Healthy People 2010, the Sur-

geon General's Report, and a National Dental Plan must be guideposts for better oral health for the American people.

Thank you again for this award and the opportunities to work with you and to serve the public. I would like to close with a few "Armenian" quotes.

I am a part of all that I have met.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

At our best level of existence we
are part of a family,
And at our highest level of
achievement,
We work to keep the family alive.

Maya Angelou

Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful citizens can change the
world. Indeed, it's the only thing
that ever has.

Margaret Mead

AAPHD 2002 Public Service Award: Senator Jeff Bingaman

Presented by Rebecca S. King, DDS, MPH

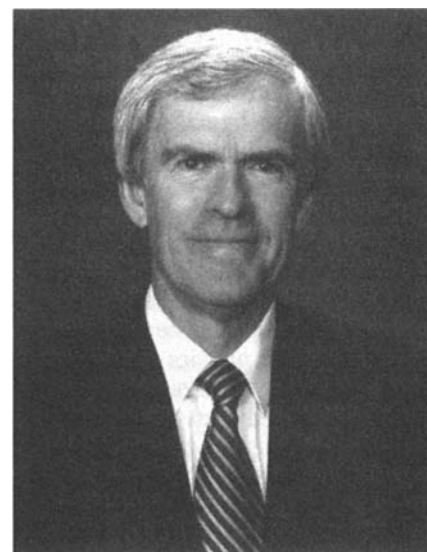
The AAPHD Public Service Award is presented to an individual for substantial contribution through action related to public health dentistry. The 2002 recipient of this award is Jeff Bingaman, Democratic senator from New Mexico.

Senator Bingaman was born and raised in New Mexico. The son of educators, he attended public schools. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in government from Harvard University in 1965, and in 1968, he graduated from the Stanford University School of Law. Senator Bingaman served in the Army Reserves from 1968 to 1974. After one year as New Mexico assistant attorney general and eight years in private law practice, Senator Bingaman was elected attorney general of New Mexico in 1978, and in 1982 he was elected to the US Senate.

Senator Bingaman is chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and serves on a number of other legislative committees, including

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Armed Services (where he has been a friend of those enlisted in the various branches of the armed services); and Finance. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid and Medicare, Senator Bingaman is in a key position to shape the health care debate in the coming years. He wants to use this role to improve and expand quality health care and access, and is working to expand health care coverage to poor children by expanding Medicaid.

Of particular interest to AAPHD, Senator Bingaman sponsored Senate Bill 1626, a bill to provide disadvantaged children with access to dental services. The short title of this act is the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2001. Title I of this act includes grants to improve the provision of dental services under Medicaid and SCHIP and the authority to provide dental coverage under SCHIP as a supplement to other health cover-



Senator Jeff Bingaman

age. Title II includes grants to improve the provision of dental health services through community health centers and public health departments, dental

officer multiyear retention bonuses for the Indian Health Service, a streamlined process for designating dental health professional shortage areas, and demonstration projects to increase access to pediatric dental services in underserved areas.

Title III seeks to improve oral health promotion and disease prevention programs by:

1. Directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an oral health initiative to reduce the profound disparities in oral health by improving the health status of vulnerable populations, particularly low-income children, to the level of health status that is enjoyed by the majority of Americans.

2. Directing the director of the CDC in collaboration with other organizations and agencies to annually collect data describing the dental, craniofacial, and oral health of residents of at least one state and one Indian tribe from each DHHS region; compile and analyze these data; and annually prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the oral health of certain states and tribes.

3. Directing the Secretary of HHS, acting through the CDC director, to expand existing surveillance activities to include the identification of children at high risk of early childhood caries; assist state, local, and tribal health agencies and departments in collecting, analyzing, and disseminat-

ing data on early childhood caries; and provide for the development of public health nursing programs and public health education programs on early childhood caries prevention.

4. Expanding the language in the Public Health Service Act that deals with school-based dental sealant programs to included school-linked sealant programs and Indian tribes, and redefining the eligibility requirements.

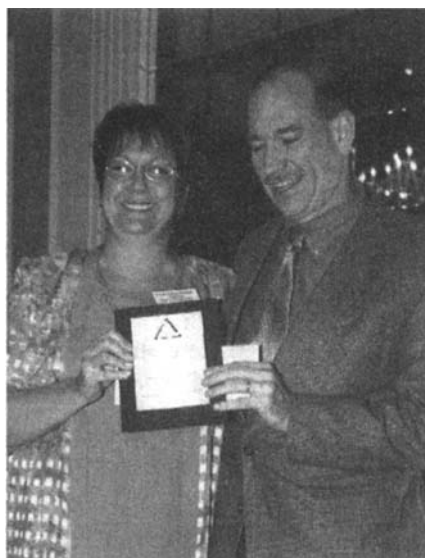
Senator Bingaman was not able to be here today, but AAPHD President-elect Bill Maas and Past President Dushanka Kleinman will schedule a time in Washington, DC, to present the award and express our thanks to Senator Bingaman.

AAPHD 2002 Special Merit Award: Robert J. Weyant, DMD, DrPH

Presented by Rebecca S. King, DDS, MPH

The AAPHD Special Merit Award is presented to an individual for special meritorious service to public health dentistry. The 2002 recipient of the Special Merit Award is Dr. Robert Weyant. In selecting him for this award, AAPHD recognizes Bob's tireless efforts on behalf of the nation's health and AAPHD's goals.

Bob's pathway into dentistry and public health did not take a traditional course. After completing a BS in biology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1976, Bob completed a master's in public health in health physics at Pitt. He was not sure what to do next, and his friends encouraged him to consider dental school. When he began dental school, Bob assumed he would go into private practice afterwards. But while in dental school, he thought that he really liked research, but did not have a lot of exposure to it and was not totally sure what it was. He received his DMD degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 and decided to go into the Navy to bide his time before going into private practice. He was stationed in Bethesda, MD, to provide



Rebecca S. King and Robert J. Weyant

clinical dental services, but there he saw people doing research. The Navy granted him a day a week for research and he found that he really liked public health and prevention.

After four years in the Navy, he

started a study club in the Bethesda area, where he met Dr. Linda Niessen. Linda told him about the Dental Public Health Residency Program that she directed with the Department of Veterans Affairs and suggested that he might be interested. He asked the Navy if they would allow him to enter the residency and they said that they would, but that he would have to wait for eight years. Bob was not interested in waiting for eight years, so in 1986, he left the Navy and went into the residency with Linda. When he completed the residency, he decided that, to do the things he wanted to do in the area of research, he needed additional formal training. In 1987, he went to Michigan for the doctoral program in oral epidemiology with Dr. Brian Burt. That same year, Bob became a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. In 1998, Bob participated in the American Association of Dental Schools' Faculty Legislative Fellowship in Washington, DC, and in 2000 he was the AAPHD nominee for the US Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship, also in Wash-