
Remarks on Receiving the 2003 Public Service Award

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I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the American Association of Public Health Dentistry for conferring the National Public Service Award on me. The prestige and deep significance this award imparts both humble and honor me.

I apologize for being unable to accept this distinctive award in person due to my legislative responsibilities. Every person working in this field today understands the extreme effort it has taken to accomplish what we have in the public oral health arena. It requires the ongoing vigilance of each of us to guard the progress we have made. Indeed, during this current legislative session, our cause has met with tremendous challenges. The new School of Dental Medicine at the Uni-



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versity of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the graduate dental residency programs have been under fire, as have numerous other health-based programs. One need only read a recent issue of the *Wall Street Journal* to capture the nature of the fight that has been required to avoid losing valuable ground here in Nevada.

As the battle for improving the oral health of our citizens continues, I assure you that knowing I have the support of the army of individuals who are fighting this good fight is fortifying. Thank you to each of you who maintain the high level of commitment to this important work and thank you for your kind recognition of my efforts.