

The George Arvidson Award for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic

72nd Annual Congress
Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

presented by
Dr. Lawrence M. Gerstein, President

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The George Arvidson Award for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic was created by the Federation in 1992 to honor the integrity and service of a man whose entire life stood proudly for chiropractic.

George believed in the political process, and he believed in the obligation of each doctor to sacrifice to better the profession.

He balanced gentleness and real human compassion with tough actions against those whose practiced outside law or regulation.

He had a dream, a vision for the Federation, and no one could have been prouder than he was when we moved into a new era of professional service to licensure these past eight years.

This is the Federation's highest individual honor.

The selection of the recipient is made thoughtfully and with joy as we continue to keep alive the dreams of George Arvidson, the gentle man with the great heart, the radiant smile, and the deep love for chiropractic.

Each year, the right choice clearly emerges to uphold the honor represented by this prestigious award. This year is no exception.

Our 1993 award began the tradition. Don Petersen continues to exemplify the commitment that George so clearly defined. The quality of his support for licensure is undiminished.

The 1994 winner, Dr. Rex Wright of Kansas, combined both current and past service. He has enriched our history with what he has given, and our present with his bold vision for tomorrow.

And, we are sure, no one could have been prouder than George himself, when in 1995, the man he loved like a son was selected for making the dream they shared together come true - Dr. Brent Owens of Florida.

In 1996 the award went to co-winners, Drs Paul M. Tullio and Frank G. Hideg, Jr., for their combined regulatory service of over 35 years and their untiring efforts to secure a sound future for the our organization.

1997 focused on Canada's humble and relentlessly dedicated visionary, Dr. Daniel Saint Germain.

And now, 1998 presents yet another opportunity to shine a light upon a man who has sacrificed much for chiropractic licensure and regulation.

This individual sees the hard choices and is courageous in taking a stand. He is as comfortable alone as he is in a circle of friends, and he makes new friends wherever he goes because of his passionate love for people.

He looks deep into the eyes and hearts of his patients and his peers, and finds good - and he invites the best of each of us to the table, and to the future.

His leadership abilities were evident even in chiropractic college, when he was twice elected president of the student body.

He graduated from chiropractic college in 1968. Still powerfully motivated by his connection with education, he taught for the college and directed its public relations program for the next four years.

Having overcome the tragic car accident, he refocused his passion for baseball into passionate support for young athletes. He has served as team physician for both professional and amateur baseball, basketball, soccer and football players since he has gone into private practice.

Appointed to the state board of examiners in 1984, he distinguished himself as president for seven of his eight years on the board. He was also appointed to the governor's advisory cabinet, where he helped to direct the development of his state's policies on health care, ADC, Medicaid and chiropractic licensure.

Drawn back into education, he was appointed for two different terms with the CCE's Commission on Accreditation.

He was elected to the Federation's Board of Directors to represent District II, where he immediately rose to the position of Executive Board Chair. He held this position until his resignation last year which coincided his announcement to seek election to the United States Congress.

As one of five chiropractic appointees to the Congressional Oversight Committee, he has helped open the door to chiropractic care for military patients in the current Health Care Demonstration project.

But it is not the accomplishments, but rather the character that defines this man.

He is known by the quality of his leadership
the passion of his convictions
the vulnerability of his heart
and the clarity of his vision

Ladies and gentlemen, George Arvidson would be proud this evening to shake the hand of this man - a tireless and caring leader for today and tomorrow:

Dr. Peter D. Ferguson