

**The George Arvidson Award  
for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic**  
79<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress  
Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards  
May 5, 2004  
Montreal, Quebec CANADA

The George Arvidson Award for Meritorious Service to Chiropractic was created by the Federation in 1992.

**Overview:** This award is the Federation's highest individual honor. Named for FCLB Past President Dr. George Arvidson of Minnesota, it recognizes integrity, service, sacrifice, vision, and commitment in the arena of chiropractic licensure.

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.

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Each year, a right choice clearly emerges to uphold the honor represented by this prestigious award.

Our 1993 award began the tradition with journalist Don Petersen. Other honorees have included Drs. Rex Wright of Kansas, Brent Owens of Florida, and co-winners, Paul Tullio of Illinois and Frank Hideg, of Kentucky

In 1997 the award went to Dr. Daniel Saint Germain, and from there to Dr. Peter Ferguson. In 1999 the Arvidson award went around the world to Australia to Dr. Ed Devereaux

The new millennium in 2000 recognized Dr. Ken Padgett, followed by Horace Elliott. The last three years recognized Dr. Joe Brimhall, Dr. Larry Spicer, and most recently, Dr. Louis Sportelli.

This year, we have the opportunity to highlight the character and accomplishments of a man who has sacrificed much for chiropractic licensure and regulation.

His deep voice is matched by a deeper heart; his passion for good is exceeded only by his commitment to ethical excellence.

In this, the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the Arvidson Award, the Federation finds itself in receipt of an unprecedented number of nominations for this single individual.

Perhaps this is because he has touched so many – as teacher, friend, mentor, and servant.

For most of you, the selection probably comes as no surprise. Who else has carried the highest office in the Federation and the National Board with such humility, dignity, and grace?

This year's George Arvidson winner practiced without a license for 16 years. While the thought of that curls the hair of some of us seasoned regulators, this is contrary to our experience. It was because there WAS NO REGULATION in Massachusetts until he fought for it. And built it. And was rewarded with one of the first licenses, which he holds to this day.

Not content to live in a box or boundary even then, he went on to help formalize regulation in several jurisdictions – Louisiana and Virgin Islands, just to name two.

His world has never been defined by his past, but rather it's constructed out of his vision. An insatiable learner, he is both fascinated and driven by the need to learn more, so he can help more.

But the Federation's Arvidson Award is not about what our winners have done - it's about who they are.

“Mentor, teacher, friend” – “the most ethical person I've ever known” — “committed heart and soul to public protection” — “a man of boundless energy, high standards, and deep compassion” — “he always asks about my family” — “he believes in me, that I can be more” — “I've known him for more than 30 years” / “I've known him for three years and he is already like my Father” — these are just some of the phrases that people use to describe him.

“I wanted to change the world now, but he knew that the better course was gradual, slow and steady.”

“I call upon him regularly for wisdom and advice.”

“Integrity, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility seem to come as naturally to him as music came to Mozart...”

“How lucky chiropractic and I are to have such a friend.”

Ah, yes.

His love for his beautiful Carla is boundless, his love for all the children in his life is marked by humor and fascination. And his love for patients is unending.

Please join me in honoring a tireless warrior, who believes in you as much as he does in the Federation. License # 3 from Massachusetts...

**Dr. Richard E. Vincent**