

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Richard G. Shaffer, D.D.S.
Real Admiral, United States Navy (Ret.)
Class of 1956

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize Richard G. Shaffer for his service to his profession and his country.

Following his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan with a major in chemistry, Dick earned his D.D.S. from the Case Western Reserve School of Dentistry in 1960. After entering the U.S. Navy the same year, he completed an internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, in 1961. He was then assigned to a multitude of ships and shore stations in the United States and abroad. In 1970 he completed a residency in general dentistry at the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland. Five years later he returned to the school as its dean.

Dick served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Regional Dental Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, and was selected to Flag rank as a Rear Admiral in 1982. He then served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Regional Dental Center in Norfolk, Virginia, with additional duties as U.S. Atlantic Fleet Dental Officer. In 1983 he became the first Vice Commander of the Naval Medical Command at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. A year later he received his second star and became the first Navy dental officer with a major medical command—the Naval Medical Command, National Capital Region, with responsibilities for the President's Hospital at Bethesda plus healthcare in five states. In September of the same year he was appointed Chief of the Navy Dental Corps and Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for Dentistry.

After his retirement from the Navy in 1989 (with the Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and two Commendations from the President of the United States), Dick became Secretary General of the International College of Dentists and Registrar of the U.S. Section. He guided the activities that established the college as the premier international dental organization representing nearly 9,000 dentists in more than 90 countries. He retired after a decade with the organization, but remains as Chair of the Convocation Committee. His honors include the Ottofy-Okurmura Award, ICD's highest recognition; the 2001 Pierre Fauchard Academy Gold Medal; an ICD Master Fellowship; and a Cabellero for the Bernardo O'Higgins Award from the President of the Republic of Chile.

Dick currently serves on the Board of Visitors of the National Museum of Dentistry; as a Trustee and teacher at the McLean Bible Church in McLean, Virginia; a consultant and visiting lecturer at the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, and volunteers with the Red Cross at the Naval Hospital in the same city.

For these accomplishments and for two well-lived careers, we join his reunion classmates and his wife Barbara Schneider Shaffer '57 and recognize Richard G. Shaffer with the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Citation.

May 14, 2011