

New Orleans Dentist Receives LDA Distinguished Service Award

by Annette Drodgy, LDA Assistant Executive Director



Dr. Donald R. Toso, of New Orleans, LA, was named this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award

that was presented during the 133rd House of Delegates of the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) on March 9, 2013, at the Shreveport Convention Center.

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor bestowed by the LDA and is presented annually to individual members who exemplify the highest standards of professional conduct in dentistry and make extraordinary contributions in organized dentistry and their community.

Dr. Toso has been a member of the LDA, the American Dental Association (ADA) and the New Orleans Dental Association (NODA) for over 46 years. He has served in numerous capacities in the local, state and national arenas, including his position as LDA president from 1986-1987. He was also chairman of the Council on Dental Health in 1973 and LDA's secretary treasurer from 1983-1985.

Dr. Toso served in many leadership positions within NODA, including serving as the president in 1978. Dr. Toso also served as 2008 chairman of the New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session. His involvement at the ADA level included membership in the House of



Dr. Gustavo Coutin presents Dr. Donald Toso with the LDA Distinguished Service Award.

Delegates and on the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) Board and chairman of the Council on Insurance.

As an active member of organized dentistry within his specialty of orthodontics, Dr. Toso served as chairman of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) Public Relations Council and was named as founding Board Chairman of the AAO Insurance Company (a Risk Retention Group). In the Greater New Orleans area, Dr. Toso has served on the boards of the Louisiana Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, the Bayou River Health Systems Agency, and the New Orleans Board of Health.

Dr. Toso received his dental degree from Loyola University (New Orleans) and a Master of

Science in oral biology and Certificate of Specialization in Orthodontics from Loyola University (Chicago).

Dr. Toso is a clinical professor of orthodontics at the LSU School of Dentistry, where he has been teaching part-time for over 40 years. He has also received Distinguished Service Awards from the New Orleans Dental Association and the Southern Association of Orthodontists. He practices with his daughter, Dr. Jamie Toso (Robert Miner) in uptown New Orleans. Daughter Cee Cee Nix (Peter) works in Houston, Texas, in the oil and gas field, and son, Navy Lieutenant Commander Donald Toso, Jr., is stationed in Norfolk, VA.