



The Walter F. Snyder Award for 1995

Presented to

LEONARD F. RICE

The Walter F. Snyder Award is conferred in 1995 upon an individual who has championed the public health of his constituents and the environmental safety of his home state of South Carolina for more than 30 years.

Leonard Rice joined the Health Department of Richland County, South Carolina as a youthful sanitarian in 1964. He quickly moved up the ranks, earning a supervisory position with the State Department of Health and Environmental Control in just two years. During this time, he also studied for and completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health from East Tennessee State University.

In 1970, he added another degree to his growing vita: a Master of Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Upon receipt of his graduate degree, Rice was promoted to District Environmental Health Director. In this position, he was responsible for the environmental health activities in the large Central Midlands district which encompasses four counties.

In 1975, he assumed the same position in the Edisto district; he also became a member of a management team that set overall policy and direction for the entire health district. That experience prepared him for success in his current position as the district's Health Director, at which he supervises all public health programs.

The high quality of health programs in his district reflects Rice's insistence on utilizing current technology, employing

and supporting qualified staff, and providing training and educational opportunities.

After 31 years of working with Rice, his colleagues at the South Carolina Environmental Health Association (SCEHA) have this to say: "No other South Carolina environmentalist has accomplished more."

Rice is credited with establishing and monitoring the first Environmental Training School in the state. He developed the first county-wide vector control program for Orangeburg County, and his guidelines for rabies alerts are still a standard tool at the state level. He also served as a delegate to South Carolina's Interstate Environmental Health Seminar for four consecutive years.

To his peers, Rice has become an acknowledged expert and resource person. "It is his knowledge, his genuine concern for others, and his true dedication to environmental health that generate the utmost respect for him among his colleagues in South Carolina," say SCEHA members.

When Rice became actively involved in the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), his expertise began to be appreciated on a national level.

As a member of the Executive Committee – where he served as Regional Vice President and National Executive Officer – he became a force in the development of a progressive and contemporary attitude at NEHA. His most important contributions came, however, in the year he served as President (1991-92).

That was when Rice presided over a major revision of the organization's Articles of Incorporation. The revision clarified the governance process of the association and, more importantly, provided new opportunities for participation by members and affiliates in NEHA's strategic planning process.

At the same time, Rice's forward thinking led to the development of a task force to consider the future of environmental health and to make recommendations for the future of the profession.

Said a NEHA colleague of these accomplishments: "Leonard was not a caretaker of the presidency. He was an active, forward-looking leader who knew how to mobilize individuals to contribute to the development of their profession."

NSF International recognized Rice's talent for bringing people together to address environmental health issues and resolve problems when it elected him to its Council of Public Health Consultants. He is now in his second term on the Council, helping to address the question of how to make voluntary standards effective and accepted as a viable alternative to regulatory requirements.

In recognition of his many contributions to the field of environmental health, Rice

has been granted honorary membership in the Environmental Health Associations of Florida and Alabama and in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. The State of Michigan has employed him as an environmental health consultant to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Corrections as well as being called upon to deliver expert advice to the U.S. Justice Department.

And, if service to his state, his professional society, and his country weren't enough, Rice has also ventured out internationally on a good will trip to Russia to promote public health in the newly defined republic.

How do you characterize a man who has contributed so much to so many in his field? His colleagues of SCEHA describe him in this way: "He is the type of person we would all like to have looking out for us and the environment in which we live and work."

NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association take great pleasure in honoring Leonard Rice for these accomplishments by presenting to him the 1995 Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality.

Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award

Callis F. Atkins
Ralph C. Pickard
William A. Broadway, Jr.
James E. Jump
Charles L. Senn
Charles C. Johnson, Jr.
Larry J. Gordon
Ray B. Watts

John G. Todd
Charles H. Gillham
Emil T. Chanlett
John R. Bagby, Jr.
William Anderson
William G. Walter
Albert H. Brunwasser
George A. Kupfer

Mark D. Hollis
Boyd T. Marsh
Harvey F. Collins
Trenton G. Davis
Robert Galvan
Amer El-Ahraf
Nelson E. Fabian

