

Dr. Robert Harmon Receives Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award



Dr. Robert Harmon

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to recognize **Robert Harmon, MD, MPH**, as this year's recipient of the Maurice “Mo” Mullet Lifetime of Service Award. This award honors current or former local health officials for noteworthy service to NACCHO that has reflected the commitment, vigor, and leadership exemplified by Mo's distinguished career.

Dr. Harmon has had a distinguished career in public health practice and academia at the local, state, national, and international levels. He was Director of the Maricopa County (AZ) Health Department; Director of the Missouri Department of Health; and Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); he is now Director of the Duval County (FL) Health Department. His contributions to NACCHO have been notable, especially as President in 1982–85, when he started many of the advancements that helped NACCHO achieve its current status. Dr. Harmon has been a tireless advocate for local public health for more than 30 years.

Notable Achievements for Public Health

- As director of the Maricopa County Health Department from 1980 to 1985, Dr. Harmon established a successful ambulatory care quality improvement program, led a team that started a homeless health center, and helped to launch the Maricopa Health Plan, a prepaid Medicaid health plan.
- He founded and was the first president of the Arizona County Health Officials Association.
- He was elected NACCHO President in 1982 and served until 1985.
- He was cofounder and first chairman of the APEX/PH (Assessment Protocol for Excellence in PH) project that was the start of the Model Standards for public health and the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Dr. Harmon was adjunct associate professor at the University of Arizona School of Medicine.
- He was director of the Missouri Department of Health from 1986 to 1990 and promoted local health departments (LHDs) in various ways, including establishing a Leadership Council of LHD representatives that met regularly with leaders of the state health agency to make policy and funding decisions.
- Dr. Harmon served on the Institute of Medicine Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health (1986–88) that wrote the first report on that subject in 1988. As a member of the committee, he advocated and achieved a strong role for LHDs in the report. He traveled and spoke widely on the report's findings.
- He was clinical professor at the University of Missouri at Columbia School of Medicine.
- From 1990 to 1993, he was administrator of HRSA, where he strengthened the roles of LHDs and state health agencies. He started the Joint Council on Academia and Public Health Practice, which included representatives from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Association of Schools of Public Health, NACCHO, and other organizations. He oversaw the launch of the federal Health Start MCH and Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs, which have had a major favorable impact on LHDs and their clients.
- From 1994 to 2005, he was a national medical director in the Optum and Ingenix divisions of UnitedHealth Group.
- He was an associate at the Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Johns Hopkins University and adjunct professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.
- Since 2006, he has returned to public health as director of the Duval County Health Department in Jacksonville, FL. This allowed him to return to NACCHO and state affiliate activities.
- He has been serving as clinical professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Florida and in the Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida.

Recognition & Awards

- Outstanding Member Award, Delta Omega Society, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, 1999
- USPHS Equal Opportunity Achievement Award, 1992
- Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society, 1992
- USPHS Outstanding Unit Citation, 1992
- USPHS Meritorious Service Medal, 1992
- USPHS Citation, 1990
- Who's Who in America, 1986
- Present Omicron Delta Kappa college leadership honorary society, 1966

For more information about NACCHO's Mo Mullet Award, visit www.naccho.org/membership/mo-mullet-award.cfm.