



OPhA Presents
2018 Bowl of Hygeia Award to
Don R. Ritter
Atoka, Oklahoma
July 28, 2018

The Oklahoma Pharmacist Association (OPhA) celebrated the outstanding efforts of individuals in the pharmacy profession during its Annual Convention and trade show this week (July 27-29.) A total of 6 individuals were presented with the 2018 Excellence Awards. The Excellence Awards were awarded in six different categories: Spirit Award, NCPA Leadership Award, Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award, Excellence in Innovation Award, Cardinal Health Generation Rx Award of Excellence, and the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia Award.

The Bowl of Hygeia Award was presented to Don R. Ritter, DPh, a pharmacist in Atoka at a ceremony held at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Ritter was nominated for the Bowl of Hygeia Award because of his involvement in his community and his profession. Ritter graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University School of Pharmacy in 1972. He began his career at Nichols Dollar Saver Pharmacy in Eufaula and at the Walmart. He then moved to Atoka where he had a pharmacy in Sonny's Country Mart. In 2002 he built a free-standing pharmacy, Ritter Express Pharmacy. He also owns Pruett's Cut Rate Pharmacy in Antlers and is a co-owner of Okmulgee Discount Pharmacy in Okmulgee, Newberry Drug in Marlow, Baker Express Pharmacy in Duncan and Marietta Pharmacy in Marietta.

He is an active member of the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association and has served as its president from 2002-2003. Ritter is also a member of the National Community Pharmacy Association previously served on the Board of Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma and currently serves on the Unify Rx Board of Directors. He has also served on the Board of Independent Pharmacy Cooperative Board.

Ritter serves on the Board of First Bank of Atoka, the Atoka Nursing Home Board and the Atoka County Memorial Center Board. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Atoka.

Ritter has been married for 17 years to his wife, Diana, and between them have five children and eight grandchildren. In his spare time, Ritter is an avid hunter and fisherman.

The Bowl of Hygeia Award is presented annually by participating pharmacy associations in each of the states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The recipients are selected by their respective associations for their outstanding record of community service. The award is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations.

"We are happy to recognize Don for the many personal hours he has devoted to the welfare of his community," said Debra Billingsley, executive director of the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association. "The city of Atoka should take great pride in having him as one of their outstanding patrons."

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol of pharmacy and derives from Greek mythology. The classical symbol was a bowl containing a medicinal potion, with the serpent of wisdom (or guardianship) partaking of it. This is the same serpent of wisdom that appears on the caduceus, which is the symbol of medicine.