

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

JOHN WEEKS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Contact: John Weeks

DALLAS--The United States Air Force's highest non-combat honor has been bestowed for the second time on a recently retired health service administrator who has turned his talents to civilian medical education.

Col. John C. Delahunt, who retired Sept. 1 after 29 years with the Air Force Health Services Administration, received the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit in ceremonies Tuesday evening (Oct. 12) in the Weiss Educational Building at Methodist Hospital of Dallas.

Col. Delahunt, now on the faculty of The School of Allied Health Professions of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, was cited for "singularly distinctive accomplishment" while serving in 1970-71 as executive officer of the School of Health Care Sciences at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Tex.

The retired officer had received the Legion of Merit earlier for achievement in Viet Nam while directing a widespread network for aerial evacuation of wounded.

Presentation of the latest award was made by Dr. Harry Parker, associate dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, at the conclusion of a faculty convocation in the Nursing Arts Laboratory of the Weiss building. Dr. John W. Schermerhorn, SAHP dean, addressed the group, and Dr. Charles C. Sprague, dean of UT Southwestern Medical School, was among those attending.

A reception honoring Col. Delahunt followed the presentation.

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Receipt of the second medal caps a distinguished military career that began during World War II. Col. Delahunt served as an Air Force hospital administrator and medical inspector, and was long-range planning and executive officer for the Office of the Surgeon General, USAF.

Col. Delahunt now is planner-analyst and instructor in Health Care Sciences at the School of Allied Health Professions, charged primarily with research and development of curriculum for a physician's assistants program.

The New York native holds a B.S. degree in pharmacy from Union University, Albany, N.Y.

Col. Delahunt "distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct," says the citation accompanying his award, "in performance of outstanding services to the United States while assigned to the Medical Service School, Sheppard Technical Training Center, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

"...Col. Delahunt's outstanding professional knowledge, initiative and devotion to duty contributed immeasurably to the overall operational mission of the Medical Service School. His sustained superior planning has had a significant impact on the development of Department of Defense and Department of Health, Education and Welfare projects designed to relieve the critical shortage of national civilian health care personnel.

"The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Col. Delahunt culminate a distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force," concluded the citation.

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