

TEXAS ACADEMY Awards

TEXAS DENTIST OF THE YEAR™ Dr. Kevin Gureckis

I"If by chance, some forty-one years ago as I marched across the stage during my graduation from dental school in Boston, someone had whispered in my ear what was to happen in Austin this past Friday evening, I would have responded in total disbelief. After all, I and my lady-love Kathy were ready to join the USAF Dental Corps and begin a new life for a few years and return home. Yet, this past Friday night during the 2017 Texas Academy Awards, that whimsical whisper became a reality. It evolved into one of the most significant and emotional events I have ever experienced in my professional lifetime.

First, at the 'Pre-Party Celebration' I witnessed and savored the inspiring introductions by Dr. Marc Worob for each of the thirteen New Dentist of the Year Award nominees. It was a powerful verification of what these recent graduates, as members of TAGD, do each and every day for the betterment of our profession and the improved dental health of the patients we treat. And they do it with that Texas-style commitment and determination that makes our delivery of dentistry here so much stronger! It is at a pace I never could have matched or imagined.

Then, it was on to the 'Presentation and Dinner' and the poignant introductions of the fifteen nominees for Texas Dentist of the Year™. Dr. Jeff Geno skillfully announced with a touch of humor, so many accomplishments, so many contributions, and so many earned awards and recognitions. But they just scratched the surface of what these nominees have done for dentistry each day. When Dr. Donna Miller, as the 2016 Texas Dentist of the Year came forward and announced the winner, all I can remember initially is the near shock and disbelief that overwhelmed my senses. I even had to ask Kathy how that saying goes about how we got to Texas as fast as possible!

These last several days have been filled with sharing the good news of this award with my students, colleagues, family and friends, patients, and our dental team members at the school! This trophy award has an inherent revered tradition of annual presentation that began in 1965 with Dr. Charles Emery as the first engraved winner. I am so very honored to have now earned a place on this list."

- Kevin Gureckis, DMD, MAGD, ABGD

"I will ensure the accomplishments of all our Texas nominees and winners are cherished for what they have done and what they continue to do!"

