

*San Bernardino County Medical Society
Merlin A. Hendrickson, M.D. Award for
Outstanding Contribution to the Community*

presented to

W. Benson Harer, Jr., M.D.

This twenty first day of June, in the year two thousand six

Dr. W. Benson Harer is well known in the medical community as a physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. In 1987, it was the San Bernardino County Medical Society's privilege to recognize his outstanding contributions to the medical society and again in 2001 to medicine. Tonight the circle is complete as we present the Merlin A. Hendrickson, M.D. Award to Dr. Harer, in commemoration of his contributions to our community.

Ben is a scholar, lecturer, and authority on Egyptology. An ardent supporter of education and the arts at California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) where he was Adjunct Professor of Egyptology, Ben has placed on long-term loan at the university his collection of Egyptian artifacts, which are housed at the Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum. The private collection consists of more than 200 objects representing all periods of ancient Egyptian history. The collection, the largest of its kind west of the Mississippi, has become the museum's centerpiece and the focal point for several educational programs. In 2001, he received the first honorary Doctor of Humane Letters ever awarded by CSUSB.

One of Dr. Harer's most significant gifts to the Medical Society and our community was the development of the Tel-Med Medical Tape Library in 1972. He served as the first President of Tel-Med from 1972 to 1974, and again in 1978-79. Ben was honored by the California State Legislature in 1978 with a commendation for his development of Tel-Med.

Dr. Harer was popular with his patients who found in him a warm, caring, and very competent advocate who often went that extra mile for them. He was the doctor they trusted with their gynecological problems and the delivery of their babies. He was a member of the San Bernardino Community Hospital Board of Directors from 1968 to 1981 and served as president from 1976 to 1979.

A strong proponent of organized medicine, Dr. Harer is past president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; he has served on the SBCMS Board of Directors and was President of the Medical Society 1976/77. He served on several SBCMS committees. He was a Delegate to the CMA 1972-91 and an AMA Delegate representing District 11 1986-87 and authored several resolutions for both the CMA and AMA. He chaired the CMA Task Force on National Health Insurance 1976-1979 and the OB/GYN Advisory Council 1986-1991, and served on CMA's Scientific Board, the Ad Hoc Committee on Peer Review in the Ambulatory Setting, the Maternal & Child Health Committee, and the Task Force on Professional Liability Alternatives.

It is a great honor to present the Medical Society's 2006 Merlin A. Hendrickson, M.D. Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community to W. Benson Harer, M.D. for his remarkable lifetime of dedication to the health and well being of his community.

*Dennis P. Flynn, M.D.
President*

