



GARREY CARRUTHERS GOVERNOR
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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GORDON RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

SANTA FE, NM-- Larry Gordon, Secretary of the Health and Environment Department has been honored as a recipient of the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award for 1988. Gordon recently announced his plans to retire after 38 years in public service.

The Distinguished Public Service Award Program recognizes unusual contributions to the public service and to the improvement of government at all levels by both government employees and private citizens. Gordon received the award during ceremonies held on June 24, 1988 at the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque.

"This is one of the highest honors I have ever received during my career," said Gordon. "It is this type of reward that makes public service an attractive field for a career."

Cordon was nominated for the award by Maralyn Budke, Chief of Staff to Governor Garrey Carruthers. The nomination petition cited his many accomplishments, and the various positions he has held in the field of public health over the years.

Gordon, 61, was director of the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department from 1982-86, and from 1955-67. He served as deputy secretary of HED from 1977-82. Gordon designed and was the first director of both the state Environmental Improvement Agency (1967-73) and the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory System (1973-77). He also recommended creation of the Public Health Division and the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, and was active in efforts to create the New Mexico Health and Environment Department in 1977, subsequently serving as State Health Officer.

Gordon is past-president of the American Public Health Association, the New Mexico Public Health Association, has been active in the National Environmental Health Association, and has served on the National Sanitation Foundation's Council of Public Health Consultants.

In 1987, Gordon received the Sedgwick Memorial Medal for distinguished service in public health, the highest award given by the American Public Health Association, and the Clinton P. Anderson award for outstanding and dedicated efforts to improve the health and environment of New Mexicans from the American Lung Association. He has been the recipient of numerous other national awards including the Mangold Award, the Sanitarians Distinguished Service Award, the Davis Calvin Wagner Award, and the Snyder Award.

Gordon, who has authored more than 100 public health publications, is a Navy Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve.

Gordon plans to continue involvements with the Carruthers administration on health-related and environmental issues in an advisory capacity at the request of the governor. Additionally, Gordon will continue consultation work with the U.S. Public Health Service and remain active in various efforts to enhance public and environmental health education programs throughout the nation, consult on management and organizational issues with various national groups, give guest lectures on public and environmental health, and consult and teach in public health administration for the University of New Mexico's Public Administration Division.