

Whipps receives 2010 Shepard Award

MSO is honored to name J. Franklin Whipps, Centralia, Illinois, as the 2010 recipient of the Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award.



Frank was born in 1942 in Sullivan, Indiana. During his time growing-up in Indiana, Florida and Illinois, he was active in Scouts, receiving the rank of Eagle Scout. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and graduated from the University of Louisville Dental School where he was honored with its International College of Dentistry Award. During the Vietnam War he joined the Navy and was stationed in Beaufort, South Carolina, and was attached to the Marines at Parris Island. After finishing his orthodontic residency at Northwestern University Dental School, he started his practice in Centralia, where he remains active today.

Frank and Bonnie were married during dental school and Christopher was born during his Navy days and Courtney was born shortly after they arrived in Centralia. The small town of Centralia provided a nice atmosphere to raise a family. Frank quickly became active in the community and his church. His first accomplishment was starting the Centralia YMCA and he spent 20 years directing, coaching and judging swim meets throughout Southern Illinois. He was also involved in the Rotary, Toastmasters and Toastmasters International where he served in a variety of leadership positions.

Dr. Whipps completed the Annapolis Sailing and Navigation Schools. His ability on water skis and love of boating, fishing and diving has led his family to spend much time on, in, or around boats and the water. He loves music and played the saxophone in a dance band. He has completed courses with some of the finest photographers and has won awards in many photography shows. As a Ham radio operator, he has made communications in remote mission areas possible.

After his son, at the age of 14, asked his dad to go on a mission trip to remodel houses in Georgia, Dr. Whipps was 'hooked.' Later he and Bonnie went to the Black River Region of Jamaica to provide dental services and they continued to spend two weeks each year serving in this mountain region of Jamaica. Their children, his office staff and his father-in-law have joined Frank on various mission trips and Bonnie has worked with him every year but two. Since that first trip, he has not missed a year of mission work, and some years he has gone on two or three trips. He looks forward to exposing all of his grandchildren to this experience in the future.

Nineteen years ago Frank formed the Belize Mission Project. Since that time he has been taking 80 to 100 people from the U.S. and Canada to Belize to do short-term missions involved with dental, medical, optical, hearing and occupational therapy. Supplies and equipment valued at almost 1.5 million dollars have been gathered and placed in medical clinics, including medical x-ray units. The groups purchase and distribute thousands of dollars of food items on the last day of work during each session. This fall he will take about 90 people, including nearly 30 dentists and physicians, to work in various clinic settings and villages all over Belize.

While Dr. Whipps is active in a number of organizations, his contributions on the Board of the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists is one of his favorite accomplishments. He has served as co-chairman of the MSO Annual Session in Nashville and as an MSO delegate to the AAO House of Delegates. Many of his best career companions are from his MSO involvement and they continue to remain of utmost importance to his life.

Dr. Whipps has also served on the board of directors of the Illinois Society of Orthodontists and is currently serving on the Illinois Society of Orthodontists' Donated Orthodontic Services Committee to launch the AAO's pilot program. He became a Diplomate in the American Board of Orthodontics early in his career. He also has served as an Orthodontic Examiner for the Illinois State Dental Board. He has been a member and past delegate of the Christian Medical and Dental Society, as well as the Christian Dental Society.

He and his wife Bonnie have enjoyed 44 years of marriage and presently live in Belleville, Illinois. Their son Christopher and wife, Christy, have three boys: Braden, Tanner, and Jaron. Their daughter Courtney and husband,

Charles McFarlin, have two daughters, Makenzie and Lainey.

Congratulations Dr. Whipps for your untiring efforts and service to your specialty, community and those in need around the world.