



THE BRONX DISTRICT BRANCH
of the
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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May 11, 2007

TO: Members – New York State District Branches
American Psychiatric Association

FROM: Michael M. Scimeca, MD, *Chair*
Harvey Bluestone, MD Award Committee

SUBJECT: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
NYSPA HARVEY BLUESTONE, MD AWARD

The Bronx District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association would like to invite nominations for the newly created Harvey Bluestone, MD Award. This award was established in memory of Harvey Bluestone, MD who was a great advocate for persons with mental illness, especially the underserved. *(A copy of Dr. Bluestone's eulogy which was presented by NYSPA Past President, Barry Perlman, MD to the 2006 APA Assembly is enclosed for your information.)*

The Award will be given to honor a New York State APA member who has made innovative contributions to the advancement of psychiatry and will be presented at the October Area II meeting of the New York State Psychiatric Association.

Nominations should be postmarked by August 31, 2007 and should include (1) a nomination letter from an APA member describing the nominee's contribution to the advancement of psychiatry; and (2) a curriculum vitae or biographical sketch. Nominations should be addressed to:

Michael M. Scimeca, MD, DFAPA
Bronx District Branch of the
American Psychiatric Association
333 Westchester Avenue
Suite LN-01
White Plains, NY 10604

Harvey Bluestone, MD

Eulogy Delivered at Spring 2006 APA Assembly

By Barry B. Perlman, MD, Area 2 Representative

I appreciated the request from our Speaker, Joseph Rubin, that I speak to the memory of our colleague & friend, Harvey Bluestone, MD who passed away on March 11, 2006. The curriculum vitae of a professional gives voice to their interests and involvements. Harvey's were both extensive and deep. Harvey continued to update his CV until 2001 and participated and was honored even after that.

Harvey was always interested in and excited by his profession. He never seemed seduced by cynicism. His passion was shared by his wife of a lifetime, Eleanor, who accompanied him to so many APA & other professional meetings. He was an advocate for persons with mental illness, especially the underserved, and our beloved profession. Indeed, he was the quintessential practitioner of public psychiatry in a career which extended for 58 years. To give life to the span of his career it can be noted this 61 year old was 2 when Harvey finished medical school, had just entered high school when he completed his residency, was within a year of completing medical school when Harvey became a Director of Psychiatry, and we still overlapped for 20 years once I too had become a Director. In my early years, when budgets were tough, he offered an optimistic perspective by assuring me that what we did was needed and would have to be made available to those who required our help. Harvey was a graduate of Columbia University and received his MD from Middlesex University. His residency was completed at Rockland State Hospital. He trained as an analyst. He achieved prominence and recognition for work as the Chief of Psychiatric Services at Sing Sing Prison, as the Director of Psychiatry of the NYC Dept of Correction and of the NYC Community Mental Health Board. From 1966 until 2000 he served as Director, Dept. of Psychiatry at The Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, an inner city institution serving the mental health needs of poor and immigrant populations. His published works included many scientific & clinical papers and chapters. He attained the rank of Professor and then Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

He was the recipient of many awards as a psychiatric educator, administrator, and clinician. Most recently it was a personal pleasure to present the New York State Psychiatric Association's Distinguished Service award to Harvey at our fall, 2005 Area Council meeting. Harvey called some days after receiving that salute from his colleagues to let me know how much receiving it had meant and asked me to thank the members of the Area 2 Council for the honor conferred on him. He received the NYSPA award in recognition of his lifetime of involvement in organized psychiatry. He'd served at every level of our APA. He'd been President of the Bronx DB - & who won't recall the Bronx DB's spring meetings which were attended by a long string of APA presidents elect -, as President of NYSPA and Area 2 Representative and as Speaker of the Assembly of District Branches. It was a great disappointment to him when not long ago, because of health related concerns, he found it necessary to withdraw from an APA Presidential race. Nevertheless, he continued to contribute until quite recently, chairing NYSPA's awards committee and, in 2001, chairing the Scientific Program Committee of the Institute on Psychiatric Services. For Harvey, retirement was unwelcome and uncommitted time hung heavily. He loved being involved with the intellectual and social stimulation he found in his field and among his peers. Harvey Bluestone devoted himself to his professional calling and in return received well deserved recognition for his contributions to it. And he forthrightly savored the recognition he received. Please join me by standing for a moment of silence as a final tribute to a former Speaker of this Assembly.