



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 17, 2017**

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### **Cottonport Pharmacist Gregory R. Poret Honored for Outstanding Community Service**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Louisiana Pharmacists Association (LPA) has selected Gregory R. Poret, RPh, as the recipient of the 2017 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Poret was presented the award at the 2017 Award Luncheon on Saturday, July 15. The Bowl of Hygeia is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, and the American Pharmacists Association, with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

Poret has contributed to his community since graduating from the University of Louisiana in 1976. He works as an independent pharmacy owner in Cottonport. Poret has been an advocate for pharmacy in Louisiana since he became a registered pharmacist. Most notably, he began an email campaign in 2015 to inform Louisiana pharmacists about upcoming legislation in the state legislature and Congress that affected pharmacy. He encouraged pharmacists to contact their representatives and senators to support and write pharmacy-friendly bills and continues to work for unification of pharmacists through a coalition to fight unfair practices by PBMs and CMS. He was also involved in meetings with the Louisiana Department of Insurance related to the problems Louisiana pharmacies face with PBMs that led to introduction of Act 399 in the 2015 Legislative Regular Session.

Poret's industry and pharmacy organization memberships include the Avoyelles Parish Pharmacists Association since 1976, serving as Treasurer; Charter Member of the Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company since 1979, serving as a Board member since 2004; member of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association since 2001 and elected to the Board in 2016; member of National Community Pharmacists Association; founding member of Louisiana Generic Drug Company, which became Jaymac in 1999.

Poret is heavily involved in his community, promoting economic and early childhood development efforts. He has been active with the Cottonport Volunteer Fire Department since 1976 and helped organize the Avoyelles Parish First Responders.

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take an active role in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition to service through their local, state, and national pharmacy associations, award recipients have devoted their time, talent, and resources to a wide variety of causes and community service.

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The Bowl of Hygeia has been associated with the pharmacy profession since as early as 1796 when the symbol was used on a coin minted for the Parisian Society of Pharmacy. The bowl represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. Healing through medicine is precisely why the pharmacy profession has adopted the Bowl of Hygeia symbol.

#### **About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation**

The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., is a trusted source of research demonstrating how pharmacists can improve health care. The APhA Foundation's mission is to improve people's health through pharmacists' patient care services. The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website [www.aphafoundation.org](http://www.aphafoundation.org). Follow the APhA Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest updates.

#### **About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations**

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPA). For more information, please visit the NASPA website [www.naspa.us](http://www.naspa.us).