



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sen. D'Allesandro receives first-ever Petersen Citizen Leader Award

Cited for commitment to public service & higher education, sense of humor & character

(Concord) One of the state Senate's most enduring and identifiable members has been awarded the first-ever Walter R. Petersen Citizen Leader Award. Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, D-Manchester, received the honor during commencement exercises at Franklin Pierce University on May 12th.

Petersen, who served two-terms as governor of New Hampshire, was the also the university's second president from 1975-1995. Current Franklin Pierce President James F. Birge said the Petersen Award mirrors the accomplishments of its name sake and is intended to "honor an individual for his or her extraordinary commitment to public service, selfless contributions to higher education, sense of humor and high moral character."

D'Allesandro, who is well-known for delivering passionate speeches on the Senate floor in support of issues he feels strongly about, admitted receiving the Citizen Leader honor caused him to quietly reflect. "Next to marrying my wife, I can honestly say this is the best honor I have ever received. I have so much respect for Walter Petersen and all that he has done for the people of New Hampshire. He is a public servant in the truest sense of the word. I am truly humbled to receive this new leadership award that bears his name," he said.

D'Allesandro is currently serving his seventh term in the state Senate representing District 20. He is also a former Executive Councilor and two-term member of the NH House of Representatives. An active member of the local community, D'Allesandro has served in many civic capacities, including as a volunteer with the National Council on Alcoholism and as a member of the Manchester Board of School Committee. He is a member of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Inc., and is a director of the New Hampshire Hockey Hall of Fame. Additionally, he currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Southern New Hampshire Services and Members First Credit Union and is the former vice chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston's board of directors.

The Petersen Award medallion is engraved with a likeness of the former governor and is presented to the recipient along with a \$2,500 cash award. Additionally, a \$2,500 contribution is made in honor of the recipient's charity of choice. Sen. D'Allesandro has selected five organizations to share \$500 each. He plans to announce the charities' names in the near future.

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