



# New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**  
Carole Alfano, 271-7585  
[carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us)

## **Sen. D'Allesandro presented Petersen Citizen Leader medallion** *Award honors commitment to public service, higher education and moral character*

CONCORD - Saying he is truly humbled, Sen. Lou D'Allesandro (D- Manchester), received the first-ever Walter R. Petersen Citizen Leader medallion in the Executive Council Chamber today. The award is given annually by Franklin Pierce University (FPU) 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. Peterson served as the university's president from 1975-1995.

Current FPU President James F. Birge placed the pewter medallion around D'Allesandro's neck as Gov. John Lynch and members of the senator's family looked on. Birge noted that D'Allesandro's receiving the medallion was significant for two reasons. First, because of the senator's history with FPU, a school which he has served in so many capacities over the years, including Vice President for Continuing Education. And secondly, when the award was originally discussed, Walter and his wife Dorothy suggested that Lou receive the very first one.

Remembering Peterson, who passed away in June of 2011, D'Allesandro said, "Walter was truly dedicated to public service in a very meaningful way. I consider him my friend and mentor. This medallion means so much to me and my family."

The Peterson 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. Last June, Sen. D'Allesandro designated five non-profits to each share \$500 in prize money. They included: Hear in NH, New Horizons, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Webster House and the Friendly Kitchen.

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