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## TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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### **CASTROVILLE FAMILY PHYSICIAN NAMED PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR**

*SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS* — Lloyd Van Winkle, M.D., of Castroville, Texas, has been awarded the highest honor among family doctors in Texas by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Van Winkle was named the 2010 Texas Family Physician of the Year during TAFP's 61st Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, on July 24. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary family physicians throughout Texas, and a panel of TAFP members chooses one as the family physician of the year.

Dr. Van Winkle has been in practice for more than 25 years and sees patients in his Castroville and Utopia clinics. He is a passionate advocate for his patients, community, and for the specialty of family medicine, continually promoting comprehensive care through an ongoing doctor-patient relationship.

He told the awards ceremony audience of family physicians, family medicine residents, medical students, and legislators that family doctors get to be part of something wonderful. "It's sometimes difficult, but the difficult journey is part of the gift. When you students are going through the four years of medical school and then another three years of residency and maybe a fellowship, it isn't easy, there are tough moments, there are call nights you won't forget, but the difficult journey is part of the gift that we give our patients."

His patients cite his caring, calm manner, and his accessibility. One patient wrote in a nomination letter that his attributes can be summed up in three words: dependable, devoted, and dedicated. "His patients can always depend on his being there for them, no matter the date or time of day or night," she wrote. "He is a caring, compassionate, consummate professional whose devotion to his patients and dedication to his profession is legendary in our community."

In addition to private practice, Dr. Van Winkle is an accomplished teacher. He is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and previously served as chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. He is a volunteer preceptor for third- and fourth-year medical students, often leading these students to choose the specialty of family medicine.

He also promotes involvement in organized medicine. He himself has been greatly involved in both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Texas Academy of

Family Physicians, holding numerous leadership positions over the years. At the national level, he is finishing his third term as Texas Delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates, and he previously served two terms as an Alternate Delegate. He is also a member of the AAFP Commission on Membership and Member Services. In Texas, he is a TAFP past president, current chair of the TAFP Political Action Committee, and has served on many committees and commissions.

In his community, Dr. Van Winkle is the volunteer medical director for the Medina Valley EMS and the local nursing home, and is the health officer for the cities of Castroville and La Coste. He serves on the school district health council and volunteers as the team doctor for Medina Valley ISD.

In his awards ceremony address, Dr. Van Winkle listed different criteria a physician must have to be named Physician of the Year: an excellent staff, a supportive family, great patients, a willing physician partner, and interactions with great physicians.

“What else you need is grey hair. You have to do it long enough to understand what it’s really all about, and what it’s really all about is the doctor-patient relationship. The highest-paid physician in the largest hospital in this city is a pathologist. But after 25 years, would you trade your relationship with your patients to be a pathologist? No, no one in this room would. That’s who we are. That’s part of that journey I was talking about.”

Dr. Van Winkle was awarded his medical degree by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and completed a family medicine residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Criteria for the TAFP Physician of the Year award requires that candidates be compassionately dedicated to their patients, active in their communities, and act as a credible, invaluable role model as a professional in the science and art of medicine. The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is honored to name Dr. Lloyd Van Winkle the 2010 Family Physician of the Year.

*The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tAFP.org](http://www.tAFP.org) for more information.*