

A Tribute --Joseph H. Lillard, Jr.

Suzanne Smith, CCH, RSHom. (NA)

Homeopathy lost one of its strongest advocates when Joe Lillard died on May 27, 2016.

Joseph Harlan Lillard, Jr. was born in Washington, DC on June 8, 1938. After receiving his Masters degree in Public Administration from American University, Joe worked in federal personnel management at a number of federal agencies including the Department of State, the Department of Treasury and the National Parks Service. Joe's sense of fair play and integrity led him to specialize in Equal Employment Opportunity issues. This was during the 1960s and early 70s, and during his lunch hour, Joe could be found attending rallies for Civil Rights and against the Vietnam War.

In the mid-70s, Joe and a group of friends purchased 127 acres of pristine farmland two hours away in southern Morgan County, West Virginia. He soon moved there full-time where he raised Christmas trees and sheep. During this time, Joe was introduced to homeopathy by a friend who gave him a remedy to try for back pain. It worked for him so he then tried a remedy on one of his goats who was suffering from an abscess. There was no turning back. Joe began his formal study of homeopathy at National Center for Homeopathy Summer School when it was still in Millersville, PA in 1983. By 1986, Joe's involvement with NCH had expanded and he founded the NCH Affiliated Study Group program. Many parents and lay practitioners got their start in homeopathy when they joined or started their own ASGs. Homeopathy growing like a weed-- thanks to Joe!

I first met Joe at NCH Summer School in 1991. Although soft spoken during the school day, he went to town on his banjo in the evening hours. Joe on banjo and Julian Winston on pedal steel spearheaded those musical evenings!

Homeopathy, old time music, sheep-raising, and Christmas tree farming were just a few of Joe's interests. When Joe realized that a homeopathic pharmacy which was founded in 1873 in Berkeley Springs, WV was destined to close, he began a campaign to save the historic institution. He convinced the pharmacist/owner that he was willing and able to do the work needed to keep the pharmacy and its memorabilia alive. After a year-long apprenticeship with the retiring owner, Joe and his wife, Linda, completed the purchase and set about reorganizing and expanding the business. Washington Homeopathic Pharmacy became Washington Homeopathic Products, since Joe was not a registered pharmacist, and he never looked back. Under Joe's leadership, WHP grew exponentially and currently manufactures over 1,700 remedies, employs over 38 employees and has over 70,000 customers spread out over more than 20 countries. In 2007, Joe earned the West Virginia Small Businessperson of the Year award and in 2009 was invited to Washington DC to meet President Obama with other state awardees.

Joe's passion for homeopathy was evident in the many years he served on the boards of the National Center for Homeopathy (NCH) and Homeopaths Without Borders (HWB), and the several humanitarian missions where he participated on behalf of HWB, including Cuba, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic.

(I also moved the 2007 in this sentence) Joe was invited by a doctor in the Dominican Republic (2007) to teach him how to make homeopathic remedies. Dr. Kahn had studied homeopathy but did not have access to remedies nor the funding to travel to the US on a regular basis. Joe brought a mortar and pestle with him, used an available microwave oven to sterilize it and visited a number of shops to "buy what we needed to sustain production...which was fairly easy compared to our problems in Cuba where it had been virtually impossible to gather most items." Eg. alcohol, pipettes, 10 ml vials, lactose, label paper. Joe wrote of that trip, "On the third evening Dr. Kahn and his wife and two sons made Sepia 29c and 30c from tincture." By the time of his departure, Dr. Kahn felt confident that with the tinctures Joe had

brought from home, he had the makings of thousands of remedy doses and would be able to continue treating his patients.

Joe remained active on the board of Homeopaths Without Borders where he served as Treasurer and then President. His business acumen coupled with his love of homeopathy kept our feet on the ground, even as we at HWB strove to expand our focus to grow a homeopathic profession in Haiti.

At this year's Joint American Homeopathic Conference, the National Center for Homeopathy honored Joe with the 2016 Julian Winston Service Award. This award is given annually to a person who has contributed substantially to homeopathy and the NCH in a voluntary capacity.

As others have said, Joe was a man of few words. However, when he spoke, the gleam in his eyes and his dry, soft spoken humor coupled with his wisdom made all of us perk up our ears; he gave us the inspiration and encouragement we needed to meet the challenges of the day.

* To read Joe Lillard's field report on his trip to the Dominican Republic, go to www.hwbna.org/dominican-republic.html