

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Terrence Ates
Public Information Officer
(903) 343 - 5451**

Northeast Texas Public Health District Announces 2017 W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award Recipient

The Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health) is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2017 W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health. This award is the District’s highest accolade for outstanding service contributing significantly to the enhancement of public health.

Doc Ballard, a registered professional engineer for the Texas Department of Health and mentor to NET Health, was a leader in protecting the health of the public. His expertise and administrative skills ensured the environmental controls crucial to the quality and safety of public drinking water and public food service; the proper disposal of wastewater and solid waste; and the monitoring of radiation.

For the 2017 W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award, the Northeast Texas Public Health District recognizes Dr. David Lakey, who has demonstrated a true commitment to protect and promote the health of the public. Dr. Lakey served as the local health authority for Smith County from 2003 through 2006, until he was named as the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services from 2007 until 2015.

Dr. Lakey concurrently serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health and the Chief Medical Officer for the University of Texas System, as well as Dean of the School of Community Health and Health Professions and the Senior Vice President for Population Health at UT Health Northeast.

As a public health leader for the City of Tyler, for Smith County, the East Texas region and the entire State of Texas, Dr. David Lakey is truly a public health visionary for the future of public health in East Texas.

George T. Roberts, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

