

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SANITARIANS
PRESENTS THE 1996 WAGNER AWARD
TO
DR. ROBERT W. POWITZ

Since he was twelve years old and learned of the profession as a farm cadet, Robert W. Powitz wanted to be a Sanitarian. He began his career in environmental health and safety in 1966 as a Metropolitan District Sanitarian with the New Jersey State Department of Health. In 1969, he accepted a promotion and transfer to the Department of Institutions and Agencies where he was responsible for the environmental health and safety programs at several long-term care facilities. In 1975, he became the first Health Officer for the Borough of Ringwood in New Jersey where he established a comprehensive full-time health department. After completing his doctorate in environmental health at the University of Minnesota, he served his post doctoral year at the NEHA headquarters as research associate where he worked on the Role Delineation Model for the Sanitarian Profession. Subsequent to that, he accepted a position as Hospital Epidemiologist for the Mercy Health Care Corporation in Detroit, Michigan; where he directed the infection control and environmental compliance activities at two acute care community hospitals. In 1980, he was appointed the first Biological Safety Officer and Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Wayne State University where he established a full-service department including a hazardous waste brokerage. He co-founded the successful Hazardous Materials Management Graduate Certificate and Masters degree program in the College of Engineering. In 1992, Powitz accepted the position of Biological Safety Officer with the USDA at the high containment Plum Island Animal Research Center located off Long Island, New York. He was responsible for maintaining biological containment during a major construction phase and the Island's transition to privatization. Finally in 1994, he realized his ambition and became a private entrepreneur, embarking on a career as a consulting sanitarian specializing in institutional litigation support activities. He is licensed and a registered sanitarian in seven states and with the National Environmental Health Association.

Dr. Powitz is active in many local and national environmental health, biological safety, contamination control and hazardous waste management organizations. He serves on several standards committees with the National Sanitation Foundation and Underwriter Laboratories.

He was granted Diplomate status in the American Academy of Sanitarians in 1975, and has been an ardent supporter of the Academy, NEHA, the sanitarian and the sanitarian profession.

****CONGRATULATIONS DR. POWITZ****