

## Thomas McTague Lifetime Achievement Award

**What year was the award created?** Thomas McTague died in 1996 and the award was created in his honor in 1998. Dawn Tonkin recommended him for an award posthumously, but the NHADACA Board decided to develop an award in his honor instead. There was a plaque presented to his wife, Merwyn McTague on the day the award was announced.

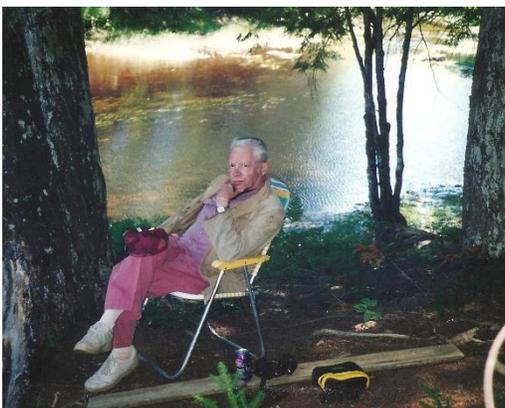
**Why was he chosen?** Dr. McTague approached the substance use profession as a “calling” more so than a job. He was militant about ethics and ethical practice. He strongly believed in integrity, honesty, trust, compassion, tolerance and caring. He ran the substance use program at the NH Technical Institute for 10 years after Jack Tim retired, and some would say he was NHTI. He was a power of example, mentor, teacher and cheerleader. The role he played inspired young people to come into the profession when much of the profession was aging.



**Who is Thomas McTague? Where did he live and work? What was his education, credentials?** Dr. Thomas H. McTague was born September 10, 1930 in Calais, Maine, the son of Dr. James and Alice (Horton) McTague. Following a long illness, he died November 24, 1996 at the age of 66.

He was a 1948 graduate of Calais Academy, a 1952 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a bachelor of arts degree in zoology, and a 1956 graduate of the University of Kansas City School of Dentistry as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. He was a member of three fraternities in college: Theta Nu Epsilon, Delta Sigma Delta and Sigma Nu. Dr. McTague completed the mid-west State Dental Board Examinations and practiced dentistry for 25 years and also taught gold work and worked with cleft palate reconstruction. Also, after graduating Dr. McTague entered the Armed Forces with the rank of Captain.

In 1979, Dr. McTague received an associate science degree from the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, and continued on to receive a master's degree in addiction studies from the University of Arizona at Tucson, where is spent time working with Native American populations. Dr. McTague worked as the coordinator of the alcohol counseling program at New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord for 10 years. He was a member in good standing of Alcoholics Anonymous. Just prior to his death, Dr. McTague was presented with the Who's Who Among American Teachers Award by the New Hampshire Technical Institute.



He had been a resident of Barrington, NH from 1988-1996 and had previously lived in Peterborough, NH from 1977-88. Before that, he had lived in Arizona and Groton, MA. He was survived by his wife of 38 years, Merwyn McTague; a daughter, Master Sergeant Dorothy LaFont; and four sons, Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth J. McTague, Michael T. McTague, James H. McTague and Thomas H. McTague Jr. He was predeceased by a son, Terry McTague who died in 1987 and a daughter, Enola McTague who died in 1964.

**What were his interests?** His interests were history, literature, the outdoors, hiking (he hiked the long trail in the 1960s and 70s), walking, camping, fishing, basketball, and baseball. He was also an avid yard sale shopper.