

Elsie Eyer

On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 we lost a dedicated Arizona public health leader. She touched so many lives through her years dedicated to her family and community. Whether she was teaching a bible class, acting as a leader for public health programs at the county, state and national level, or leading the school board in Flagstaff, she had a heart for helping people, especially those most in need. Elsie was born on September 29, 1934 in Childress, Texas. After graduating from high school, Elsie attended Abilene Christian College, where she received a B.S. in Business Administration and later received a M.S. in Ministry from Pepperdine University.

Elsie was for many years a well-respected and well-liked leader in the Arizona Public Health community. She was a longtime member of AzPHA, joining in 1974 after attending her first AzPHA Annual Meeting. She served on the AzPHA Board of Directors in several capacities, being elected President in 1985. Later she became the Arizona Affiliate Representative to the American Public Health Association (APHA) and was very active on the national scene, serving on the APHA Board Committee on Affiliates as well as the Nominations, Policy and Resolutions Committees. She was a former chair of *The Nation's Health Advisory Committee* and a candidate for APHA president in 1998, the first person in Arizona known to have done so to date. She is the 1995 recipient of the AzPHA Harold B. Woodward Award and received the Women of Distinction award for Health in 1994 and 1996 from Soroptimist International of America, Flagstaff. Elsie was an Association Lifetime Member and Public Health Patron Supporter.

Elsie was a steadfast supporter of access to family planning services. She served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Family Planning Council (now Arizona Family Health Partnership) from 1997 to 2004 and served as President in 1999 and 2000. For six years she was a member of the Executive Committee and chaired the Appropriations Committee. There she played a central role in the allocation of federal Title X funds to community agencies and county health departments. During her tenure the network of agencies and the number of clients served expanded significantly.

Upon retirement in 2000, after 45 years in public health she became the third AzPHA Executive Director and was in this role to help AzPHA celebrate the Association's 75th Anniversary. She worked from 1970 to 1997 at Coconino County Health Department, serving in several public health roles including Director. In 1997 she moved to Phoenix and served as the Assistant Director, Public Health Services at the Arizona Department of Health Services from 1997-2000.

In honor of Elsie's years of dedication to public health and access to care throughout Arizona, the AzPHA CUP Award will be renamed the AzPHA Elsie Eyer CUP Award beginning with the 2016 award cycle.