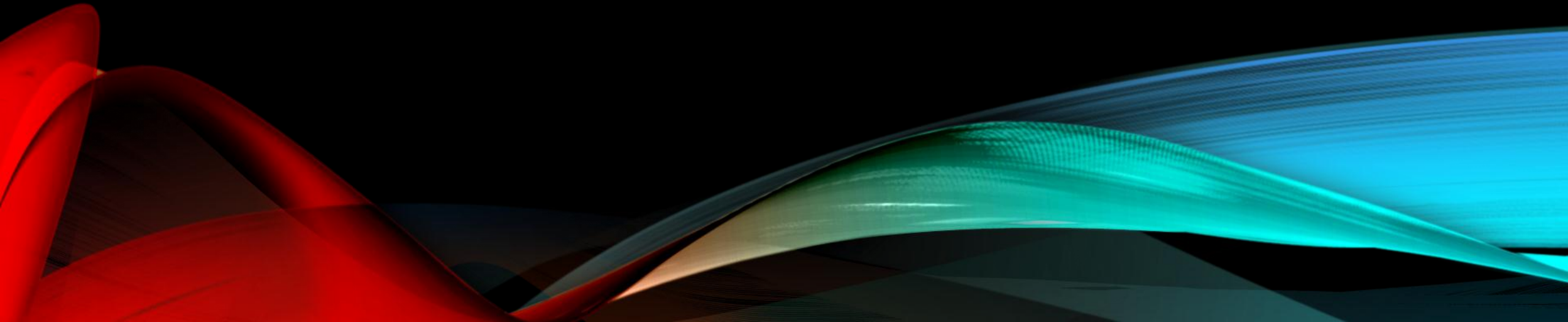




# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RESPIRATORY THERAPY IN VIRGINIA

VSRT  
EVOLUTION AND HISTORY  
1940s – 1970s



# 1940s-1960s

- **1946:** The Inhalation Therapy Association (ITA) is formed in Illinois.
- **1954:** The ITA is renamed as the American Association of Inhalation Therapists (AAIT).



- **1966:** The AAIT is renamed as the American Association for Inhalation Therapy (still AAIT).

# 1970

- 1970: The Maryland-D.C.-Virginia Society of the AAIT was established with one President elected from the society. Three Vice Presidents were elected from Virginia, one from each of the relatively equal sized regions in the state.

# 1973

- 1973: The AAIT becomes the American Association for Respiratory Therapy (AART).



- 1973: The MD-D.C.-VA society was renamed the MD-DC-VA Society for Respiratory Therapy.

# 1974-75

- **1974:** Virginia respiratory therapy professionals voted to establish the VSRT.



- **1975:** The VSRT was established as a separate society of the AART with AART permission and the state was divided into four areas designated as chapters; later chapter lines were redrawn to divide the four areas into five, separating one large area into Central and Blue Ridge districts and continuing the other three of Northern, Western, and Tidewater.

# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA

## 1977

VSRT began to **seek state credentialing** for respiratory therapy, prompted by the AART and its Board of Medical Advisors to insure professional survival beyond the 1990s.



# FIRST VSRT CONFERENCE 1978

The first VSRT Spring Symposium was held  
in Virginia Beach.



# VSRT PRESIDENTS 1970s

- 1975 - 76 Relon Cutchins – Suffolk
- 1976 – 77 Robert Bageant – Charlottesville
- 1977 – 78 David Wine – Pulaski
- 1978 – 79 R. Douglas Swing, Jr. – Virginia Beach

Relon Cutchins, CRTT  
First VSRT President  
VSRT Casino Night Fundraiser



# WE WILL REMEMBER OUR FIRST VSRT PRESIDENT RELON P. CUTCHINS, JR.

## TO THE EDITOR:

On April 17th, Respiratory Care in Virginia lost a dear friend - Relon Cutchins. In addition to being one of the founding fathers of our society in the late sixties and early seventies, he remained true to his profession by staying involved with respiratory care as the first respiratory therapy department head for Louise Obici Memorial Hospital, later as a respiratory sales representative, and still later as the manager of the respiratory staff relief company.

Those of us who were fortunate to know Relon agree that his gentleness and unselfishness was unlimited. He was always ready to help anyone or be there in time of need.

I hope that somehow he and his contributions to respiratory care are remembered. Our society and many of the individuals touched by Relon owe him a debt of gratitude. I know that I speak for his many friends when I say that his passing was much too soon.

Godspeed, Relon, we miss you.

Bob White  
Richmond, Virginia

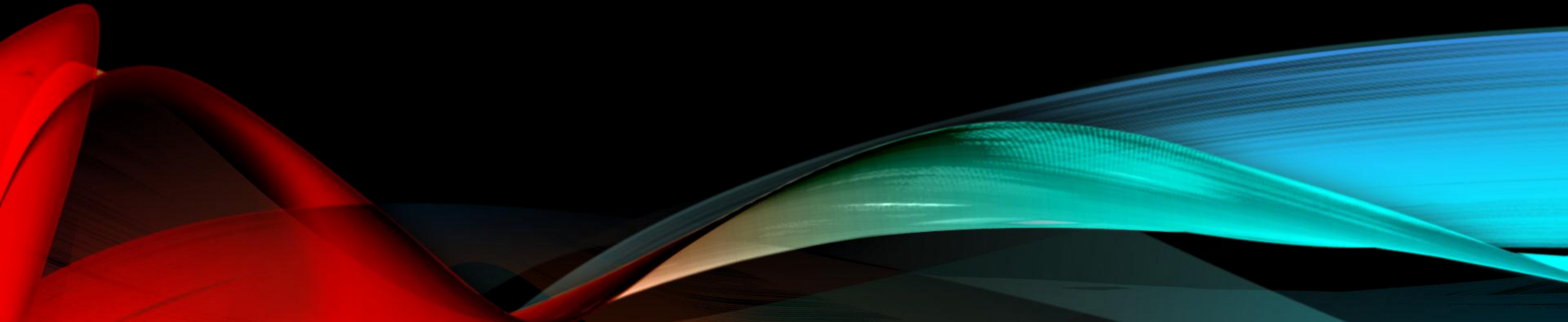
VQ The Official Publication of the VSRC, Inc.  
October 1991, vol. 13, no. 3



Relon P. Cutchins, Jr., CRTT died on April 17, 1991 at the age of 46. Mr Cutchins was the first President of the Virginia Society for Respiratory Care in 1975, presiding over the separation of the VSRC from the Maryland, D.C., Virginia Society for Respiratory Care. Mr. Cutchin's career in respiratory care began in 1965 as an inhalation therapy technician at Portsmouth General Hospital. In 1968 he was appointed the first director of Inhalation Therapy at Louise Obici Memorial Hospital, in the Tidewater area. In 1975 Mr. Cutchins was employed as a sales representative with McGaw Respiratory Products in New York where he remained until heading a respiratory care department in Houston, Texas in 1978. In 1986 he returned to Richmond where he helped organize and manage Help Reliance Respiratory and Nursing Staff Relief. In 1988 he moved to Nag's Head, N.C. where he operated a cable service business while working in respiratory care at Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City. Mr. Cutchins is survived by his son, Brian and two brothers.

# VSRT/VSRC HISTORY

## 1980s



# CONFERENCES AND FUN

## 1982

- **1982:** The first fall program was held in Abingdon. All subsequent Mountain Air Symposiums have been held in Blacksburg. The traditional scholarship fund raising event is a golf tournament.
- **1982:** Although volleyball is the traditional event at the Spring symposium in Virginia Beach, the first rope Tug of War was held in 1982 and was an annual event for at least 5 years.



From left pulling rope: Tim R?, XX, XX, Joe DiPietro, William "Stan" Holland

# VSRT/VSRC PRESIDENTS 1980s

- 1979-80 Donald O'Donohue - Richmond
- 1980-81 Jerry Kirchoff – Richmond, replaced by William Dubbs -Charlottesville
- 1981-82 William Dubbs - Charlottesville
- 1982-83 Roger Householder – Richmond, replaced by Joseph DiPietro - Suffolk
- 1983-84 Robert Ashley -Virginia Beach
- 1984-85 Joseph Carroll – Chesapeake
- 1985-86 Daniel Beachy – Fairfax
- 1986-87 Charles “Skip” Bangley - Front Royal
- 1987-88 Larry Eichelberger - Charlottesville
- 1988-89 Patricia Doorley - Charlottesville

# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA 1982-83

- **November 30, 1982:** A VSRT **position statement** on state licensure was adopted, then revised on January 1, 1983.
- **January 26, 1983:** The **RT scope of practice for Virginia was developed** and support was given by the Virginia Thoracic Society and Lung Association of Virginia due to the efforts by “Chip” Robertson, MD, co-Medical Advisor of the VSRT.

Charles “Chip” Robertson, Jr. MD  
Co-Medical Advisor of the VSRT  
VSRT Casino Night Fundraiser



# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA

## 1983

October 4, 1983: The Virginia Commission of Health Regulatory Boards voted 10-0 in favor of regulating the practice of respiratory therapy in Virginia. Their recommendation was to regulate respiratory therapy through **statutory certification**.

# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA

## 1985

**March 18, 1985:** Virginia Governor Charles Robb signed the bill into law which established **certification** for Virginia respiratory therapy practitioners, however it was **voluntary**.

The credential was Certified Respiratory Therapy Practitioner, designated by C.R.T.P.





# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA

## 1987

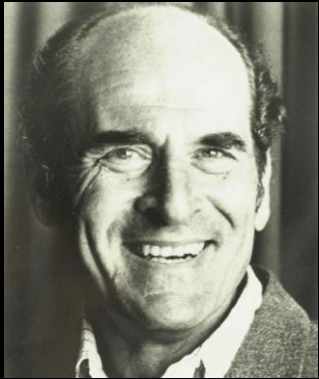
The **Advisory Committee for Respiratory Therapy** to the Virginia State Board of Medicine **recommended** at the full Board of Medicine at the November meeting that credentialing of respiratory care practitioners should be **mandatory** in its status rather than voluntary.

Legislative Committee report, VQ 1987 by Joe DiPietro, MS, RRT, Chair

# CELEBRITY SPEAKERS AT VSRT CONFERENCES

## 1980s

1983, Spring: Henry Heimlich, MD



Keynote, "Transtracheal Oxygen Therapy"

1984, Spring: David Eubanks, Ed, RRT

Keynote, "What If There Was No Respiratory Therapy:  
A Look In the Future"

# CELEBRITY SPEAKERS AT VSRT CONFERENCES

## 1980s

1983, Fall: Donald F. Egan, MD

“The History of Respiratory Therapy”

*This was Dr. Egan’s final public lecture before retirement. After a thunderous standing ovation, Dr. Egan informally met with registrants to autograph his text and discuss his general humble philosophy of caring for others.*



From left: Bob Ashley, Dr. Donald Egan, Dr. "Chip" Robertson.

# VSRT AWARDS ESTABLISHED 1983

**The James P. Baker, MD Award** of merit may be presented annually to the respiratory therapist who has contributed the most to the Society during the year. James P. Baker, MD helped establish Respiratory Therapy and the VSRT in Virginia and was actively involved for many years following its inception.

**The Robert A. Bageant Award** of merit may be presented to someone who has contributed the most to the Society during the year. Initially established to recognize only a physician, in 2008, the standing rules were revised to allow the recipient to be any affiliate contributor.



James Baker, MD &  
Bob Bageant, RRT,  
1992

# AWARD RECIPIENTS 1980s

## Recipients of the James P. Baker Award

1983 Robert Ashley, RRT  
1984 R. Douglas Swing, Jr. RRT  
1985 Joseph DiPietro, RRT  
1986 Patricia Doorley, RRT  
1987 Daniel Beachy RRT  
1988 Nancy Lee Petty, CRTT  
1989 Larry Eichelberger, RRT

## Recipients of the Robert A. Bageant Award

1983 Charles Robertson, Jr. MD  
1984 Charles Robertson, Jr. MD  
1985 Walter O'Donahue, MD  
1986 Terring W. Heironimus, MD  
1987 William B. Hunt, MD  
1988 Charles Durbin, MD  
1989 Phillip Fuller, MD

# AWARD RECIPIENT

## 1985

Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr. MD, was the recipient of the VSRT Robert A. Bageant Award in 1985.

Dr. O'Donohue served as the President of the National Board for Respiratory Care, was on the Board of Directors for the American Lung Association, and served on the American Thoracic Society Committee on Respiratory Care



# AWARD RECIPIENT

## 1988

Nancylee Petty, CRTT was reported to have broken the precedent of being a professional with the RRT credential when she became the recipient of the VSRT James P. Baker Award in 1988.

She and her family were so proud that it was noted in her 2010 obituary.



# NATIONAL RECOGNITION

## 1983

Two outstanding VSRT members were elected to positions in the AART.



William "Bill" Dubbs, RRT, was elected Chair of the AART Political Action Committee



R. Douglas "Doug" Swing, RRT, was elected to serve as Chair of the AART's Nominations and Election Committee.



# NAME CHANGES

## 1986-87

- 1986: The AART is renamed the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC).
- 1987: The VSRT changes its name to the Virginia Society for Respiratory Care (VSRC), effective April 17, 1987, per membership vote.



# VSRC HISTORY

## 1990s



# VSRC PRESIDENTS 1990s

- 1989-90 Samuel Yoder – Alexandria
- 1990-91 Ben Schowe – Lynchburg
- 1992 Ben Schowe – Lynchburg
- 1993 Mark Diana - Winchester
- 1994 Scott Dralle – Petersburg
- 1995 Michelle Leonard - Fairfax
- 1996 Carolyn Phillips (Fields) – Castlewood
- 1997 Camden McLaughlin - Blacksburg
- 1998 Larry Wooton – Richmond
- 1999 Nancy Martin - Honaker for  
Susan Telmanik – Lynchburg

Ben Schowe had an extended period as President in 1991-92 because the society changed the fiscal year to coincide with calendar year and because Tom Woods was unable to serve as elected.

# EVOLUTION OF RCP LICENSURE IN VIRGINIA

## 1990

**April 1990:** Mandatory certification bill signed by Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder which provided **title protection**, effective July 1, 1990.

# FIRST RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK 1992

Respiratory Care Week was established by the AARC, celebrating October 4-10 with the theme "Respiratory Care Cares about Children with Asthma."

Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder signed the formal declaration for Virginia on September 22, 1992.



From left, seated: Larry Wooton, Gov. Douglas Wilder, Ben Schowe; standing: Mark Diana, Howard Byrd, XXXX?, Jolynn Hamelman, Gregory Davis, Lois Rowland, Don O'Donohue, Glenda Moore, Scott Dralle, Larry Eichelberger.

# RCP LICENSURE FINALIZED 1998-99

- April 22 1998: Gov. James Gilmore signed the Respiratory Care Practitioner licensure bill into law.



From left, seated: Sen. Benjamin A. Lambert III (bill sponsor), Larry Wooton, Gov. James Gilmore, Michelle Leonard, Ed Robinson; standing: XXXX, Scott Dralle, Cam McLaughlin, Paul Dalby, Tom Travis.

# RCP LICENSURE FINALIZED 1998-99

- July 1, 1998: Virginia Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) licensure became effective due to error in documentation instead of the intended date of July 1, 1999.
- January 1, 1999: The regulations for the RCP licensure became effective.

# CELEBRITY SPEAKERS AT VSRC CONFERENCES

## 1990s

1991, Spring: Forrest Bird, MD

Keynote address

“Current Trends in Mechanical Ventilation”

Phillip Fuller, MD, VSRC Medical Advisor  
and Forrest Bird, MD





# CELEBRITY SPEAKERS AT VSRC CONFERENCES

## 1990s

1991, Spring: Charles Durbin, MD

“Allocation of Medical Resources  
in Critical Care”

1992, Fall: Charles Durbin, MD

“Intravenous Oxygenation and  
CO<sub>2</sub> Removal (IVOX)”



# CELEBRITY SPEAKERS AT VSRC CONFERENCES

## 1990s

1992, Fall: Neil MacIntyre, MD



“Pulmonary Blood Flow and Diffusion Using Continuous Measurements of Exhaled Gas”

1994, Spring: Dean Hess, RRT

“Respiratory Equipment:

The Risk for Ventilator Associated Infection”

# PROFESSIONAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS 1993

The first professional poster presentations were held at the spring symposium.

Randall Harris, RRT



# VSRC FUN 1990s

Volleyball in the mountains, and... golf at the beach!



From left: Barry Peoples, Barry Peoples, Tom Trenis, Mike Klaiber, Brian Walsh, Unknown, Jim Shuke, 1998?

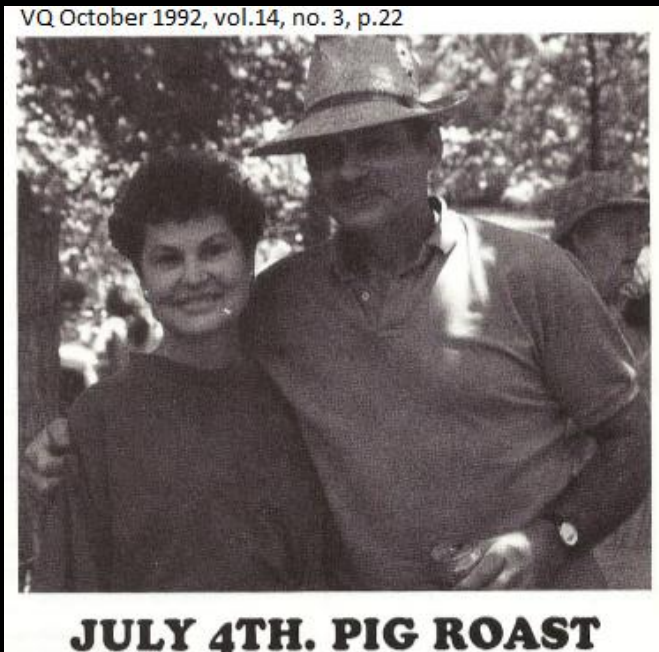
VQ March 1994, vol.16, no. 1, p.9

## **GOLFERS CAN IMPROVE THEIR LIES**

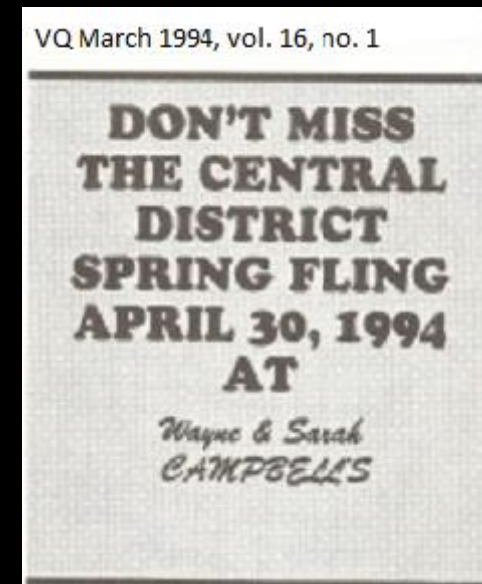
Another group with a studious interest in the movement of spherical objects through air will convene prior to the *Current Trends in Respiratory Care* seminar. Golfers and others who have access to clubs, tees, and balls will pursue their madness and raise funds for the VSRC Vendors Scholarship Fund on May 24, 1994. VSRC Round Ball Struck By Sticks Competition Committee Chairman Rusty Coggins has not revealed the location of this year's tournament yet. "Augusta is a little too far away if we want to catch the first set at Ocean Eddy's, so we're going to play it around the Beach.

# VSRC FUN 1990s

Western District's Pig Roast July 4,  
1992 at Susie and Bill Culbertson's:



Central District's 1994 Spring Fling  
Cookout and VSRC membership drive  
at Wayne and Sarah Campbell's:



# AWARD RECIPIENTS 1990s

## Recipients of the James P. Baker Award

1990  
1991 Donald O'Donohue, RRT  
1992 Robert Bageant, RRT  
1993 Samuel Yoder, RRT  
1994 Ben Schowe, RRT  
1995 Susan Telmanik, RRT  
1996 Scott Dralle, RRT  
1997 Mark Diana, RRT  
1998 Michelle Leonard, RRT  
1999 Edward Robinson, RRT

## Recipients of the Robert A. Bageant Award

1990  
1991 Ignacio Ripoll, MD  
1992 Joseph Smiddy, MD  
1993 Phillip Fuller, MD  
1994 Phillip Fuller, MD  
1995 James Baker, MD  
1996 Frank Fusco, MD  
1997 Paul Suratt, MD  
1998 Emory Robinette, MD  
1999 Emory Robinette, MD

# VSRC SCHOLARSHIP RENAMED 1998

The VSRC Scholarship (often referred to as the Vendors' Scholarship) was renamed the Leslee Harris Smith Scholarship fund in honor of Leslee who had been a strong contributor to both the state society and respiratory therapy education. Board members met at Leslee's home to honor her on April 16, 1998.



Pictured with Leslee (front, left) is Larry Wooton (sitting) and (standing, left to right) is Mark Diana, Linda Stone, Gay Olsen and Michelle Leonard

# LESLEE HARRIS SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Leslee Harris Smith, MS, RRT, 48, passed away on January 13, 2001 after a courageous life cut short by the devastating effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Leslee was the Director, of the Respiratory Therapy Program at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia, from 1981 to 1996 when she was forced to slow down due to the consequences of her illness. She was an active member of the Virginia Society for Respiratory Therapy, serving as chair of the educator's group for many years. Her many contributions are recognized annually by the VSRC through the its award of the Leslee Harris Smith Scholarship to students enrolled in respiratory therapy educational programs throughout the state.





LET'S HAVE ANOTHER  
EVENTFUL CENTURY OF  
RESPIRATORY CARE IN VIRGINIA!

Get involved!  
[www.vsrc.org](http://www.vsrc.org)

# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RESPIRATORY THERAPY IN VIRGINIA

This presentation and an exhibit at the VSRC Mountain Air Symposium 2013 was assembled after inspiration from the AARC and ARCF announcing plans for a virtual museum of respiratory care. This content reflects information from various sources available at the time and may include unintentional errors, for which we apologize. Additional information or edits would be appreciated and should be directed to the VSRC webmaster at [www.vsrc.org](http://www.vsrc.org).

This was assembled by Lois Rowland with invaluable assistance collecting documents and memories from Bob Bageant, Ben Schowe, Pat Doorley, Don O'Donohue, Cam McLaughlin, Ed Robinson, Wes Mullins, Michelle Leonard, Robin Wilson, Brian Walsh, Larry Wooton and many others.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RESPIRATORY THERAPY IN VIRGINIA

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