**VSRC**

**The James P. Baker Award**

**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. From 1983-2007 the current Society President in conjunction with past presidents, determined who the recipient should be. In 2008, the VSRC standing rules were revised so selection is made by an Executive Board majority vote. The recipient of this award is also nominated to the AARC’s House of Delegates Outstanding Affiliate Contributor each year (formerly the AARC’s “President’s Award).

James P. Baker, MD helped establish Respiratory Therapy and the VSRC in Virginia and was actively involved for many years following its inception.

Dr. Baker was born in Virginia, attended Medical School at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) and held academic appointments at MCV and Eastern Virginia Medical School from the 1960s to the 1990s. He served on RT School Program Advisory Committees, represented the American Thoracic Society (ATS) to the AART, was an oral examiner for the NBRT, was a site visitor to the AMA Schools approved for RT, and served as member of the AMA Joint Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (JCRTE). He distinguished himself in the American Lung Association (ALA) and ATS. He presented countless informative presentations at VSRC Seminars and to a host of others on pulmonary medicine topics. Dr. Baker received several teaching awards at medical schools and served as Director of Pulmonary Division at Eastern VA Medical School, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Interim Dean while there. The AARC granted Dr. Baker Honorary Membership for his service on the Association's Board of Medical Advisors (BOMA).

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| **Recipients: 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 | Nancylee Petty, CRTT |
| 1989 | Larry Eichelberger, RRT |
| 1990 | William Dubbs, RRT |
| 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 Jr., RRT |
| 2000 | Tom Travis, RRT |
| 2001 | Edward Robinson Jr., RRT |
| 2002 | Brian Walsh, RRT |
| 2003 | Daniel Rowley, RRT |
| 2004 | Mary Kane, RRT |
| 2005 | Judy Combs, RRT |
| 2006 | Michael Klaiber, RRT |
| 2007 | J. Wes Mullins, RRT |
| 2008 | Jolynn Hamelman, RRT |
| 2009 | Lois Rowland, RRT |
| 2010 | Natalie Napolitano, RRT |
| 2011 | James Shuke, RRT |
| 2012 | Sherry Compton, RRT |
| 2013 | J. Marc Winstead, RRT |
| 2014 | Richard Stairhime, RRT |
| 2015 | Chase Poulsen, RRT |
| 2016 | Hanns Billmayer, RRT |
| 2017 | Shari Toomey, RRT |