



Recognition of Service by Joseph Valentino to USP

**Remarks by Roger L. Williams, M.D.
USP CEO-EVP**

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It is with great pleasure and honor that I follow the USP Board Chairman, Dr. Larry Braden, in introducing Dr. Joseph Valentino, who will shortly provide a brief statement about his many years of tenure at USP. I have known Joe for many years, first during my tenure at FDA, and, beginning five years ago, both as a mentor and supervisor. Joe ‘took me in’ at the beginning of the 2000-2005 as a USP ‘neophyte.’ His task—a considerable one—was to educate me into the complex world of USP. And it is indeed a complex world, with many years of honor and commitment and historical precedent in the service of national and international public health.

At heart, USP is a ‘people’ organization, composed of highly talented and dedicated volunteers, as well as an increasingly large and talented staff. Taken together, USP is a unique organization that brings together all who are interested in serving practitioners and patients as they work to promote health and treat disease. Joe worked tirelessly on behalf of these primary customers.

As a pharmacist-lawyer, his efforts were especially devoted to the pharmacy profession, to which he has been a dedicated and energetic advocate over many decades. But of course Joe’s work extended beyond even this broad focus. As I look at USP’s structure and processes, I sometimes see in its early beginnings an attempt to model USP on the democratic ideals and approaches that undergird the US government itself. With this analogy, I came to understand that Joe over time had become USP’s ‘supreme court’—the final arbiter of human relationships and interactions that allow men and women of good will to come together to good purpose.

Joe, of course, was more even than this for USP. To me and many others, he was a good friend and sound mentor who always worked with us with the good of the organization in mind. He is missed now at USP and will continue to be missed. We at USP thank and honor not only Joe at this time but also his lovely wife Pat, his loving family, and his many friends and associates who have supported and sustained him over the years.

With their support, Joe became a key player in the drama of USP—a principal part who helped USP become a beacon to the national and the world community, where USP volunteers and staff can work to promote the public health for the benefit of patients and their families.