

**For Immediate Release**

**Past US Air Force Sergeant Honored with Statewide Ethics Award**

Dr. James Sparks Awarded with the Oklahoma Dental Association Ethics and Professionalism Award

**OKLAHOMA CITY (May 2, 2019)**- The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) is proud to award Dr. James Sparks with the ODA Dan E. Brannin Ethics and Professionalism Award. The award was given during the 2019 ODA House of Delegates meeting on April 25 in Tulsa.

Organized dentistry is built on a foundation of ethics and professionalism. The ODA Dan E. Brannin Professionalism Award is presented annually to an Oklahoma Dental Association member dentist who has made significant contributions to the advancement of the principles and practice of ethics and professionalism in dentistry.

Dr. Sparks served in the United States Air Force October, 1969 – October, 1973 before graduating from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1986. He served on the Oklahoma State Department of Health’s committee in 1990 – 1991 to develop the guidelines for “HIV” and Hepatitis “B” infected healthcare workers. Dr. Sparks also served with the Oklahoma Office of Chief Medical Examiners in 1995 to help identify victims of the Murrah Building bombing. He has served on numerous boards and committees in various professional organizations ranging from the Oklahoma Dental Association to American Association of Dental Boards, of which he will ascend to the office of president in 2020. He served Oklahoma on the Board of Dentistry for 18 years, eight of which he served as president.

“Dr. James Sparks has served as an inspiration and role model for the dental profession in Oklahoma,” said ODA Immediate Past President Dr. Shannon Griffin. “With more than 30 years’ experience in dentistry, Dr. Sparks has impacted countless lives through his volunteer work and commitment to the dental profession. The ODA appreciates Dr. Sparks’ commitment to ethical dentistry and professionalism within his practice.”

**About the Oklahoma Dental Association:**

The Oklahoma Dental Association, founded in 1907, has a membership of more than 1,600 dentists. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information about the ODA, visit [www.okda.org](http://www.okda.org) and to find a dentist, visit <https://findadentist.ada.org/>.

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*Photos Attached*

1. Dr. James Sparks is presented the ODA Dan E. Brannin Professionalism Award by Dr. Shannon Griffin, ODA Immediate Past President.
2. Dr. James Sparks with Award
3. Headshot Dr. James Sparks

For more information about Dr. Sparks or this Award, please contact Stacy Yates at 800.876.8890 or by e-mail at [syates@okda.org](mailto:syates@okda.org).

Reporters are invited to follow the ODA on Twitter at **@OklaDentalAssoc**.