



**AMERICAN
ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC
ASSOCIATION**
SERVING THE O&P FIELD FOR OVER 90 YEARS

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Media Contact:
Lauren Anderson
571/431-0843

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

AOPA Announces Thomas V. DiBello, CO as 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 4, 2015– The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA) will honor Thomas V. DiBello, CO with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX. This award is bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

Charles Dankmeyer, AOPA’s President explained “*Mr. DiBello is this year’s honoree because of his relentless passion for patient care, O&P education and advancing the profession. Tom is a true visionary who has made a huge impact through his leadership at the Academy, AOPA, O&P educational programs, and his other volunteer work here and abroad.*”

Mr. DiBello began his career as a pharmacist but left the field after 3 years to earn an O&P certificate at Northwestern University. After a residency at the University of Oklahoma and eight years as a clinician employed in private practices, he purchased a small practice in Houston, TX that became Dynamic Orthotics and Prosthetics, which he grew over 18 years from a single practitioner, administrator, and technician, to four offices employing over 25 practitioners and technicians. He merged his practice in 2010 with Hanger Clinic, where he now serves as Gulf Coast Regional Director.

Mr. DiBello holds the position of Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, School of Allied Health, Honorary Adjunct Faculty at Texas Women’s University, and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Baylor College of Medicine Masters Program on Orthotics and Prosthetics. He has lectured extensively on Lower Extremity Orthotics throughout the United States and Mexico as well as Italy, Australia, Southeast Asia and Africa and has authored chapters in two textbooks and two chapters for the new Atlas of Orthotics.

Mr. DiBello has dedicated himself to volunteer work in the field and has served on the Board of Directors at AOPA for five years, including an unprecedented two terms as the President. Mr. DiBello also served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists for six years and as its President from 2000 to 2001.

Mr. DiBello will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 AOPA National Assembly in San Antonio, TX, at the General Session on Saturday, October 9 at 7:30 am.

Questions? Please contact Lauren Anderson, AOPA’s Manager of Communications, Policy, and Strategic Initiatives at 571/431-0843 or landerson@aopanet.org.

About AOPA

AOPA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to helping orthotic and prosthetic businesses and professionals navigate the multitude of issues surrounding the delivery of quality patient care. The association was founded when needs of returning veterans in the aftermath of World War I required a national organization to address the educational and research requirements of the industry.

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association
330 John Carlyle Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 571/431-0876
Fax: 571/431-0899
www.AOPAnet.org