



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos left to right: Dr. Macke speaking with community members. Dr. Edward Macke, MD with longtime colleague and friend, Dr. Shawn Andrews. The award Dr. Macke was presented with.

Large Community Turnout to Honor Long Time McCleary Physician, Dr. Edward Macke

ELMA, WA—More than 80 community members and many Summit Pacific Medical Center (SPMC) physicians and employees gathered yesterday to celebrate McCleary’s Dr. Edward Macke in his receipt of the Dr. John Anderson Memorial Award for Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner. He was congratulated on his upcoming retirement and thanked for his many years of service to rural East Grays Harbor County.

Renee Jensen, CEO of SPMC, presented Dr. Macke with the award which she accepted on his behalf at the 2015 Washington Rural Health Association (WRHA) awards ceremony March 18, in Spokane, Washington. This award recognizes the late Dr. John Anderson. He was a dedicated physician and leader in implementing a system to ensure that physicians and other health care providers have an opportunity to work in the rural communities of Washington State. The WRHA shared that Dr. Macke’s life and work embodies the qualities that Dr. John Anderson exhibited and is therefore very deserving of recognition.

Dr. Macke accepted the award and became teary-eyed as he spoke about his time in McCleary. He said, “When I look at how the towns of McCleary and Elma have changed, you don’t see any dairy farms on

the Mox-Chehalis road and there aren't shake mills every half mile, but the quality of the people hasn't changed. He followed with, "It's been a wonderful ride and I thank you very much for this honor and I thank you all for coming." Following the short program, Dr. Macke spoke with the line of patients, colleagues and friends throughout the duration of the reception.

Dr. Macke came to McCleary in 1977 through the National Health Service Corps with a commitment to stay two years. Thirty-eight years later, Dr. Macke is still here. Throughout the years, he advocated for important access to medical care for the rural community by helping the community gain an affirmative vote to form Grays Harbor County Public Hospital District No. 1.

Tammy Davis, one of SPMC's advance practice registered nurses, spoke about her friendship and the time she spent working with Dr. Macke. Davis said, "I really think Ed has a tremendous heart, a fierce intellect that is unrivaled and a wicked sense of humor."

Dr. Shawn Andrews shared, "I really look to you as a mentor and I have a ton of respect for you. I'm going to miss talking with you about patients but I am really looking forward to hearing your stories."

Each year, members of the WRHA nominate various individuals across the state that have made significant contributions in the field of rural health care. "Dr. Macke has operated an incredibly busy practice for many, many years; and yet, he not only knows each patient by name, but also their parents, siblings and friends. He truly epitomizes the Patient Centered Medical Home model of care in his practice." Renee Jensen, CEO at Summit Pacific Medical Center shared.

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For more information on both the WRHA, the WRHA awards and/or to view a list of all of this year's award recipients, visit www.wrha.com/wrha-awards.