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NET Health Announces Our 2023 W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award Recipient

Friday, June 30, 2023 – Tyler, Texas

The Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health) announces the 2023 W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health, our highest accolade for outstanding service contributing significantly to the enhancement of public health.

“Doc” Ballard, a registered professional engineer for the Texas Department of Health and mentor to NET Health, was a leader in protecting the health of the public. His expertise and administrative skills ensured the environmental controls crucial to the quality and safety of public drinking water and public food service, proper disposal of waste, and the monitoring of radiation.

Judges for the selection of the annual “Doc” Ballard Award include two members from the Northeast Texas Public Health District’s Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer of NET Health, one representative from the Texas Department of State Health Services Region 4/5 North and one representative from the Smith County AgriLife Extension Office.



NET Health recognizes Kevin Eltife as the recipient of the 2023 W. T. “Doc” Ballard Award. Mr. Eltife is a long-time Tylerite who is currently owner of Eltife Properties, Ltd. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. He formerly served on the Tyler City Council, as Mayor of the City of Tyler, and as Senator for Texas District #1.

Mr. Eltife has served as a member of the Senate Committees on Finance, Natural Resources, International Relations, Open Government, Redistricting, and Facilities. He is also a Director at Citizens 1st Bank and a Board Member of the Tyler Police Foundation.

In January 2017, Mr. Eltife was appointed to The University of Texas Board of Regents; only one year later, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Regents. Mr. Eltife has passionately served the citizens of East Texas and leveraged his leadership to spearhead the formation of the UT Tyler School of Medicine. The new medical school will be transformative for East Texas and his leadership makes him a worthy recipient of NET Health’s highest accolade for outstanding service that contributed significantly to the enhancement of public health.

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

NET Health serves a vital function through our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) & Community Outreach.

Visit us at [MyNETHealth.org](https://www.MyNETHealth.org). [“Like” us on Facebook](#) and [“Follow” us on Instagram](#).



2023 “Doc” Ballard Awardee, Kevin Eltife, pictured with NET Health CEO George Roberts.



Bruce Ballard, Kelly Eltife, Kevin Eltife, Barbara Ballard, and Brian Ballard.