

# IFD – Working for Denturists Worldwide

## Focus on our Pioneers - Tribute to Paul Levasseur:

The profession have been blessed with devoted Trailblazers who led with conviction, dedicated to their calling to convince governments that denturists be legally recognized, to practice professionally without supervision, so that patients can exercise their freedom of choice. The standards they set, have been significant factors in achieving the level of professionalism and status that we as denturists enjoy today. In this tribute the IFD acknowledge Paul Levasseur.

**Paul Levasseur LD, DD (Canada), HMCDDP (UK)** is a widely known and respected denturist from the USA. For many years he has taken a leadership role in the activities of Denturism in the state of Maine and has also been a long-standing official of the National Denturist Association. He has also served in various capacities for the IFD and throughout the world. Paul's qualifications include:

- Advanced Diploma in Denturism (Canada), with Honors, George Brown College, Toronto (Canada)
- Certified BPS Denturist, Ivoclar/Vivadent, Shaan, (Lichtenstein)
- Denturist Registry Education at the Royal College of Surgeons (England)



Around the mid-1970's, when the denturism movement came to Maine, father and son, together with John Merrill, John Hussey, Ed Bates and others, were successful in getting the profession regulated. Maine is one of only 6 states to have

achieved this goal in the USA. Paul and his father continued working together to fight the legislator for educational opportunities and legal clinical experience. They had permits to practice under supervision in 1996, but then full licenses in 1998. Paul never shunned away from unavoidable confrontation, but he is also a charming diplomat and efficient negotiator.



Paul Levasseur was the product of Paul (senior), WW2 veteran and his mother Marion, who met in Germany during the post-war US occupation. After returning to the USA, Paul (senior) pursued various entrepreneurial opportunities, before ending up as a dental technician. Due to the high fees charged by dentists and the low remuneration dental technicians received for making the dentures, it is no surprise that he soon became a pioneer denturist. When he was trapped for direct services and prosecuted for illegal dentistry, the judge found an excuse to dismiss the charges, because his brother was a satisfied client/patient of the accused.

Paul (senior) and his wife Marion, established the family business of Standish Denture Centre in Maine and young Paul (junior) soon joined the business to become a dental technician. Drawing patients from as far as 150 miles away, Standish Denture Clinic quickly become the premier source of high quality dentures in the surrounding area, with branch-offices in Standish, Fryeburg and Portland.



With this kind of history in activism, it was only natural that Paul Levasseur found his way to the International Federation of Denturists. His first meeting was in Helsinki as the first-ever representative of the National Denturist Association (NDA). "I went to the men's room and when I came back I was Vice President for North America" he laughs.

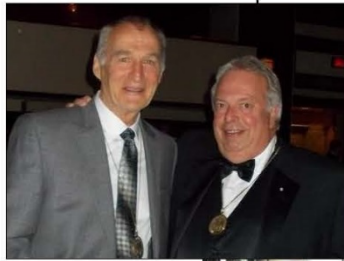
In 2007 Paul became the Chief Examiner, Denturist Licensing Examination for the States of Maine and Montana. In the same year Paul became the Chief Examiner, Exit Examination for the International Denturist Education Centre (United States, United Kingdom, and Republic of Ireland) at the George Brown College, Toronto, in Ontario, Canada.

Paul also served as DCP Member of the Faculty of General Dental Practice in the UK, Director of the Maine Society of Denturists, and as a member of the Wyoming Denturist Association. In addition, he served one term as President of the National Denturist Association (USA), and was named 2010 Denturist of the year by the NDA. His involvement in the UK earned him honorary membership of the Clinical Dental Technicians Association (United Kingdom), and honorary membership of the College of Dental Prosthesis (United Kingdom).

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In 1999 Levasseur became the President of the IFD and after a 10-year tenure, handed over the chair to Tony Sarapuchiello in 2009. Since then he continued to serve another term as Vice President for North America until last year, when Daniel Robichaud was elected into the vacancy. He simultaneously served as Treasurer, until 2017, when he handed over the Treasury to Urban Christen Méndez. During the 2014 meeting in Dublin, Ireland, Paul chaired the meeting for Tony Sarapuchiello, who could not attend due to ill-health.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Brotherhood of Sterkenburgers by Pieter Brouwer at Sterkenburg Castle, Netherlands for his dedication and leadership to the profession and to denturist education. During the World Symposium held in Coventry, England in May of 2007, Paul Levasseur became



one of only eight recipients ever to be honoured with the Pieter Brouwer Award of Merit - the highest IFD accolade, reserved exclusive for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary and exemplary service to the profession internationally.



We are proud to honor a great leader and his pioneer father with this tribute and it will be fitting to honor Paul's suggestion in this manner.

Dear Paul Levasseur:

On behalf of all you have served with at the International Federation of Denturists; we honor you. We are deeply grateful for your generous support of our organization during so many years and in so many different roles. We want you to know that we acknowledge and appreciate your wonderful work and commitment to the profession, your camaraderie and your brotherhood.

At a time when voluntary action was vital to IFD success, your contribution has enabled us to not only maintain our status, but also further expand and enhance our quality of service to our members. Your contribution demonstrates how committed individuals like yourself can make the difference to enhance and build the profession in global locations.

Our mission to provide recognition and knowledge for Denturists worldwide is at the very heart of all that we do. Through your time investment in IFD, you enabled us to continue reaching a high level of excellence in oral healthcare services by denturists. Your experience in the Denturism field proved invaluable, by supporting the progress in many countries and preventing avoidable strategic mistakes. Even in Switzerland your advice supported our mission in a very positive way.

Thank you for your partnership and brotherhood for so many years as we continue our efforts to provide the highest quality, patient-centered oral healthcare. We were so proud to share your company during our 10<sup>th</sup> World symposium on Denturism in Montreal 2017 and will always remain proud to be your friend and ally.

Respectfully yours

Urban Christen Méndez  
IFD PRESIDENT

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