



Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

RADM, Ret., Richard A. Rubendall, P.E.

Retired Officer Representative



Richard A. Rubendall, spent his entire PHS commissioned corps career, from COSTEP student to Flag officer, in service to American Indians and Alaska Natives. A life member and former President of the PHS Commissioned Officers Association, he is a highly respected professional engineer recognized for his seminal role in the motivation, education and mentoring of fellow PHS officers.

Richard Rubendall is a registered professional engineer in the States of Montana and Arizona. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1979 and has completed graduate studies in civil engineering at the University of New Mexico. On 8 November 1998, he married Susi Conley in Tucson, Arizona.

Richard Rubendall was commissioned as a Public Health Service officer in 1978 as a Junior COSTEP officer (student extern) in Sacaton, Arizona with the Indian Health Service (IHS). He served again as a Junior COSTEP in 1979 in Browning, Montana and later in that year was assigned as a senior COSTEP officer in Billings, Montana at the IHS Area office. Upon graduation from engineering school he began his full time service in Lame Deer, Montana as a field engineer in the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) program. In 1986 he transferred to Many Farms, Arizona in the Navajo Area of IHS as a Senior Field Engineer in the SFC program. In 1989 he became the senior SFC field engineer at Sells, Arizona in the Tucson Area IHS. In 1990 he became the District Environmental Engineer for the Sells Field Office and in 1993 he assumed responsibilities as District Engineer for the Eastern District Office of the Tucson Area IHS, a post he held until 2005. In March of 2005, he transferred to IHS headquarters and assumed the role of Director of the Division of Commissioned Personnel Support Activities for the agency. In October of 2006 in recognition of his leadership responsibilities and professional competence, he was appointed as an Assistant Surgeon General with the equivalent rank of Rear Admiral (RADM) in the PHS Commissioned Corps, a post held until his retirement from the PHS Commissioned Corps on 1 October 2010. RADM (Ret.) Rubendall started his own company, Rube's Consulting PLLC, and currently is employed as a consultant to the Tucson Area IHS, Division of Environmental Health & Engineering.

His PHS awards include the Outstanding Service Medal, the Commendation Medal, two Achievement Medals, the PHS Citation, as well as two Outstanding Unit Citations, and seven Unit Citations. These awards were conferred upon him as an individual who has demonstrated exemplary professional conduct and commitment to national service.

RADM (Ret.) Rubendall currently serves on the Board of Directors of the PHS Commissioned Officers Association (COA) representing the retired category and a Trustee for the Commissioned Officers Foundation. While on active duty he served on the COA Board from 1995 to 2005 and as the COA President in 1997-1998. He has also served as President of the Tucson Branch of the COA and helped establish the Big Sky Branch. He was an active instructor in the PHS Commissioned Officers Training Academy and his community service includes leadership roles in his church.

As of July 21, 2017