

RTPI Honors Retiring Board Chairman

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Dallas K. Beal was recently honored by the members of the Board of Directors of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

Board members cited Beal, who has ended his term as board

chairman, for his longtime friendship and support of RTPI and his tireless and dedicated leadership that has seen RTPI through its most difficult formative years.

Beal has been vital to the Institute's national success, according to the RTPI board.

Board members unanimously passed a resolution honoring Beal for his wise counsel and innovative leadership as board chairman. In a special show of gratitude, Virginia M. Peterson presented Beal with an original Roger Tory Peterson Field Guide Plate.

"The gift was overwhelming and I am very appreciative of it," said Beal. "I've spent 20 enjoyable years working with the RTPI trustees. I've particularly enjoyed the last few years with Jim Berry and his staff. I hope to keep in touch with everyone through a new advisory council."

Beal's official service began upon the incorporation of RTPI in 1983, but his actual service

began much earlier, according to a RTPI press release. In 1976 a committee of local leaders was formed to explore the possibility of establishing an institution to recognize and honor the accomplishments of native son Roger Tory Peterson. Between 1976 and 1983, this committee worked with Roger and Virginia Peterson to make the critical decisions that would lead to what is now the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

Beal and others on the committee worked with the Gebbie Foundation, New York state officials and many individual donors to secure funding to make the dream a reality.

Beal was named the chairman of the building committee that oversaw the design, planning and construction of RTPI's world-class facility.

In 1995, Beal became chairman of the board of trustees.

By unanimous vote, R. Quintus Anderson was chosen to take over leadership of the institute.