Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. served as the Chief of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from December 1980 to January 1993. Remembering the harmful effects of dental disease that he had seen in his pediatric patients over the years, Dr. Quilty knew that oral health was an important part of child health. As division chief, he “put some money where the mouths were.” Under his leadership, the ODH Oral Health Program became a model for what state dental public health programs across the country should be. More importantly, if not for Dr. Quilty and his support for oral health initiatives such as community water fluoridation and school-based sealant programs, many more children in Ohio would suffer tooth decay and its negative consequences.

In November 1992, Dr. Quilty announced his intention to leave his position as division chief. At a meeting in late November, the (then) Bureau of Dental Health voted to establish the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Children’s Oral Health. The purpose of the award was to recognize a group of people, a program, or an individual who had distinguished themselves through actions to promote the oral health of Ohio’s children at a community or state level. The first award was presented in December 1992, and the award has since been given annually to a deserving person or group.

In 2004, the award was renamed the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health to recognize efforts of recipients that result in improved oral health for all Ohioans, not only children.

ODH continues to honor Dr. Quilty each year by recognizing people throughout the state who carry on his legacy of positively impacting the oral health of Ohioans. Recipients of the award are presented with a plaque, and their names are engraved on a perpetual plaque on display at ODH.
Past Recipients of the
Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr.
Award for Champions of Oral Health

2020 – Cincinnati Health Department School-based Health Centers
2019 – Don Sabol, MPA, Ohio Department of Medicaid
2018 – Michelle Deskins and Laura Longwell, RDH
2017 – Canise Bean, DDS, MPH
2016 – Vinod Miriyala, BDS, MPH, CAGS, DDS (co-recipient)
           Hamilton Local School District (co-recipient)
2015 – Cindy Payne, Dorothy Stratton and John Stratton
2014 – Summa Center for Dental Health
2013 – Janet Mesenburg, RN
2012 – The Humility of Mary Health Partners (HMHP) Foundation, the HMHP
           Oral Health Safety Net Dental Clinic and St. Elizabeth’s Dental
           Residency Program
2011 – Gary Ensor, DDS
2010 – Dental OPTIONS Referral Coordinators
2009 – Homa Amini, DDS, MPH, MS
2008 – Rebecca Earlie, MPH, CHES
2007 – Barbara Stichter, RDH
2006 – Theresa Wukusick
2005 – Dental Center of Northwest Ohio
2004 – Healthy Smiles for Lancaster
2003 – Jenny Kattlove, Terri Donlin
2002 – Jackson County Dental Task Force
2001 – Lawrence Hill, DDS, MPH
2000 – Kathryn Peppe, RN, MS
1999 – Paul Casamassimo, DDS, MS
1998 – Robert Creedon, DDS
1997 – Nancy Goorey, DDS
1996 – Judith Taylor, RN
1995 – Jack Whittaker, DDS and John Gerstenmaier, DDS
1994 – Nancy Carter, RDH, MPH
1993 – Dian Partlow, RN
1992 – Middletonians for Dental Health