For his leadership, dedication, and trailblazing work in the converging fields of military psychology and public policy specifically related to advocating for psychologists’ prescriptive authority for military and all psychologists.

Upon Dr. DeLeon's retirement in 2011 as Senator Inouye’s Chief of Staff, Senator Inouye credited him with advancing the public awareness of the importance of psychologists and other health care providers. For decades, he has published peer-reviewed papers and currently serves as Distinguished Professor with a joint appointment in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Service University faculty. Dr. DeLeon has been a strong supporter of military psychologists' and all psychologists’ prescriptive authority. As a member of the APA Board of Directors, Dr. DeLeon and Senator Inouye were primarily responsible for a 1988 legislative measure directing the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to develop and train DoD psychologists in prescribing. DoD psychologists, upon completion of the training, would have the ability to prescribe psychotropic medications “under certain circumstances” as part of fiscal year 1989 Appropriation Bill. Due to his significant accomplishments in military psychology, he was the recipient of the Division 19 John C. Flanagan Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. He has continued to be active in military psychology over the course of his career advocating and writing in the field of military psychology as seen recently in the 2019 versions of The Military Psychologist commentary articles.

Dr. DeLeon has made numerous contribution to the APA in a number of positions. He served as the President of the Society of Clinical Psychology, APA’s, Division 12 in 1987. From 1995 to 2000, he was the editor of Professional Psychology: Research and Practice. In 2000, he served as the President of the APA. In 2009, he received the American Psychological Association Award for Lifetime Contributions to Psychology, a prestigious award given to those who have made significant advancements to the field of psychology. Currently, he is the editor of Psychological Services, journal that covers “the broad range of psychological services delivered in organized care setting.” He is a Fellow of the APA Division 55, the American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy. There is an APA award in Dr. DeLeon’s name that honors a graduate student for their contribution to the advancement of pharmacotherapy in psychology. Dr. DeLeon’s various positions and awards demonstrate his incredible contributions to the field of psychology.

For his leadership and his incredible dedication to the field of military psychology and the field of psychology more broadly through his advocacy for psychology prescribing privileges, I, Stephen V. Bowles, take great pleasure in presenting the Society for Military Psychology Presidential Citation to Dr. Patrick Henry DeLeon.

Stephen V. Bowles, PhD, ABPP
President, Society for Military Psychology