

by Jayne Cannon

**PHARMACY:** Pharmacist, president and CEO, Patio Drugs and Patio Drugs Homecare Pharmacy, Metairie, La.

**AGE:** John turns 70 in December.

**FAMILY:** His wife, Daisy DiMaggio, is also a pharmacist and is co-owner of Patio Drugs. He has five children and six grandchildren.

**EDUCATION:** BS in Pharmacy, Xavier University, 1974

**EARLY DAYS:** John started his pharmacy career on June 18, 1967, with a job at the corner drugstore. His first day was a Sunday. "I really should have seen the writing on the wall, starting on a Sunday. I could see what was ahead," he says, laughing.

**HE FELL IN LOVE:** On that first day, he wiped down shelves, and then his boss had him sit him on a stool and gave him a mortar and pestle. "He didn't just tell me what to do, he'd show me how. He was a second father to me." That first day, he taught John levigation and geometric trituration, and a pharmacist was born. "I was smitten; there's no other way to say it."

**PHARMACY PASSION:** His patients are everything, John says. "Whether they've been with us 40 years or four weeks, we want them to feel comfortable here. Our slogan is 'We're large enough to serve you and small enough to know you.'"

**THE BASEBALL GUY:** A teacher once asked John if he was related to Joe DiMaggio. He answered, "He's my father," which was true. (The teacher, of course, was referring to the Yankees' center fielder.) John's uncles found years later that there really is a family connection. They are very distant cousins.

**NCPA'S VALUE TO ME:** "NCPA is not just looking out for community pharmacists. They are trailblazers in working for the things that are urgently needed by those of slugging it out in the pharmacy. NCPA is truly an organization that lives up to and fulfills its purpose."



**John DiMaggio, RPh**

Photo by Rusty Costanza