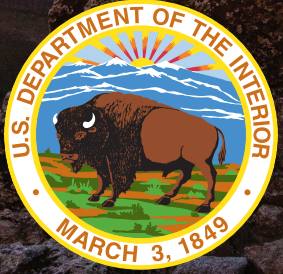
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



74TH

HONOR AWARDS CONVOCATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

SIDNEY R. YATES AUDITORIUM

U.S. Department of the Interior
74th Honor Awards Convocation

Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building

Message from the Secretary

One of the privileges of serving as Secretary of the Interior is joining you to recognize our colleagues' accomplishments across the Department of the Interior (Department). We are nearly 70,000 strong, spread out all across America—from the North Slope of Alaska to American Samoa, from the Everglades to the Virgin Islands, from the Gila River to the Hoover Dam, and right here in the Nation's Capital. Today, we honor our colleagues' bravery, courage, and dedication, in service to the Nation.

Some of this year's awardees took great personal risks, overcoming life-threatening circumstances to serve the American people. They saved people from drowning; endured gunfire; orchestrated a complex helicopter rescue mission; and dodged falling ice and rock to recover trapped hikers just before an avalanche. One honoree searched a national wildlife refuge for 40 miles in the rain to rescue a man from a vehicle that slipped into an alligator-inhabited canal. Their accomplishments are truly remarkable and inspiring; they represent the best of the Department and this Nation.

Across the Department, dedicated colleagues distinguished themselves by applying diverse talents, expertise, and a passion for serving the public throughout their careers. Among other lasting achievements, our colleagues built an innovative security program at the Bureau of Reclamation; introduced a model Financial and Business Management System at the Office of Natural Resources Revenue; developed novel approaches to species recovery, conservation, and historic preservation; and developed the world's premier earthquake monitoring operation. Others ensured that the Department's actions were well-grounded in the law and provided multiple Secretaries with incredible advice and counsel.

Today's awardees embody American greatness, working day in and day out to build our conservation stewardship legacy for the people of this great Nation. Congratulations, and thank you all for your exceptional service.

Secretary of the Interior

Program

INTRODUCTIONS AND NARRATOR	***Susan Combs*** Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	***U.S. Park Police Honor Guard***
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM	***Key of E*** ***Lola Hatcher-Capers, Office of Civil Rights*** ***Allyn Lloyd-Powell, Dr. Lloyd's Joyful Noise School of Music*** ***Jasmine Mays-Robinson, Music for Me***
WELCOME	***Todd Willens*** Chief of Staff
MOMENT OF SILENCE	***In memory of Department of the Interior employees who died in the line of duty***
CONGRATULATORY REMARKS	***David L. Bernhardt*** Secretary of the Interior
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	***Safety Awards*** ***Distinguished Service Awards*** ***Citizen's Award for Bravery*** ***Valor Awards***
CLOSING REMARKS	***Todd Willens*** Chief of Staff


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MARCH 3, 1849

We Honor Those Employees of the Department of the Interior Who Died in the Line of Service

National Park Service

Brian Corcoran Hughes

Safety Awards

The Department of the Interior presents the prestigious Safety and Health Award of Excellence and the Aviation Safety Award. These awards are the highest-level safety and health and aviation awards granted by the Department and are presented by the Secretary of the Interior. These awards recognize individuals or groups that have performed an outstanding service for or made a contribution of unusual value to the occupational safety and health of employees, visitors, and volunteers; and aircraft accident prevention. Recipients of the Safety and Health Award of Excellence receive a plaque while recipients of the Aviation Safety Award are presented a certificate and award citation signed by the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

Safety and Health Award of Excellence Recipient

Christopher L. Vallee

Mr. Christopher L. Vallee consistently ensured staff, equipment, and watercraft vessels met maritime safety requirements to conduct critical scientific research work in an inherently dangerous seafaring environment. Mr. Vallee is highly respected and heavily relied upon for his problem-solving expertise to ensure scientific data collection is safely accomplished. He willingly serves as a mentor to many watercraft operators throughout the U.S. Geological Survey, across other Federal agencies, and with collaborators in the San Francisco Bay and Delta. Mr. Vallee consistently executes high-quality risk management initiatives to meet project goals despite the risks in his dangerous maritime work environment.

Aviation Safety Award Recipients

Multi-Bureau Unmanned Aircraft Systems Response Team

Bureau of Land Management
Gary Baumgartner
Bobby Eisele

Office of Aviation Services
Brad Koeckeritz
Colin Milone
Steve Ramaekers
Steve Stroud
Richard Thurau
John Vogel

U.S. Geological Survey

Seth Ackerman
Josip Adams
Mark Bauer
Brad Bickford
Sandy Brosnahan
Todd Burton
Geoff Debenedetto
Angie Diefenbach
Frank Engel
James Foreman
Brandon Forbes
Amy Gilmer
Shawn Harrison
Steve Hartley
Rogelio Hernandez
Christopher Holmquist-Johnson
Shelby Hunter
Bill Jones
Cameron Marshall
Timothy McKinney
Erich Peitzsch
Elizabeth Pendleton
Tobyn Rhodes
Jeff Sloan
Kevin Smith
Matthew Struckhoff
Emily Sturdivant
Ryan Thompson
Ken Tiffan

The Multi-Bureau Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Response Team (Team) deployed essential equipment and trained personnel to provide remote sensing data acquisition over the Mount Kilauea eruption impact area in Hawaii. The critical operations provided by the Team were conducted in accordance with established authorizations from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of the Interior, and local emergency operations organizations coordinated by the Hawaii County Emergency Operations Center. The Team flew over 1,200 flights totaling more than 300 hours to collect aerial geospatial and gas emission data to effectively monitor lava flows moving through and threatening residential areas and critical infrastructure. Due to the critical hazardous gas concentration levels' exposure potential, the Team modified the UAS payload to collect the hazardous gas data. The Team collected time-sensitive data to construct an up-to-date digital elevation model of areas where lava flows had dramatically changed the topography. The use of UAS within this significantly hazardous environment considerably reduced the safety and health risks to personnel while simultaneously expanding data collection capabilities.

Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honorary recognition an employee can receive within the Department of the Interior. It is granted for an outstanding contribution to science, outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty, outstanding contribution made during an eminent career in the Department, or any other exceptional contribution to public service. Recipients receive a special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary along with an engraved gold Distinguished Service Medal and a gold lapel pin.

Distinguished Service Awards

Award Recipients

Bureau of Reclamation

*Ronald Schuster**

National Park Service

Peter Aucella

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Karen Osborne

Esther C. Horst

Office of the Secretary

*Richard T. Beck**

Office of the Solicitor

Barbara N. Coen

Robert F. Snow

Stephen R. Palmer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jessie V. Cheek

(*Award Previously Presented)

Distinguished Service Awards

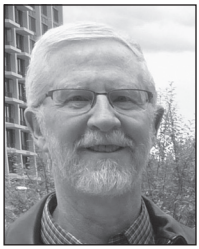
Award Recipients

U.S. Geological Survey

John L. Boatwright (posthumous)
Sarah J. Converse
John L. Dwyer
John B. French, Jr.
Susan M. Haig
Richard M. Iverson
Jill McCarthy
Arthur F. McGarr
Andrew J. Michael
John A. Moody
Cheryl A. Morris
Leonid A. Neymark
David A. Pyke
Bruce K. Quirk
Christopher J. Schenk
David H. Schoellhamer
Mary E. Wood

Distinguished Service Awards

Award Recipients



Ronald Schuster

Mr. Ronald J. Schuster, culminating a 43-year career in his pinnacle role as Reclamation's Chief Security Officer, provided unsurpassed leadership to the Department of the Interior's (Department) security program responsible for protecting the Nation's most critical water and power infrastructure. During his tenure, and as a result of his leadership and vision, thousands of improvement actions and projects totaling more than $134 million were completed and resulted in reduced risk across Reclamation. Mr. Schuster's roles within Reclamation included managing and advising on issues in the water resources, land settlement, and cultural resources areas. Based on his engineering expertise, risk management fundamentals, and knowledge of both Department and Reclamation policy and budget, he was hand-picked to head Reclamation's security program following the attacks of September 11, 2001. His selection proved pivotal and directly led to the development of what many regard as the best security program in the Department. Mr. Schuster established the first-ever formal policy, directives, and standards for security in Reclamation; he also tackled and organized a bottom-up personnel security program. He collaborated with the regions and orchestrated the integration of streamlined budget protocols as well as risk assessment and analysis processes. Mr. Schuster crafted a strategic and more accurate solution for the way Congress and the Office of Management and Budget calculate and allocate security program funds, which will have significant positive long-term impacts for Reclamation.

Peter Aucella

For 32 years, Mr. Peter Aucella served in multiple roles within the Department of the Interior (Department) to make Lowell National Historical Park (Park) and Preservation District (District) in Lowell, Massachusetts a model of conservation and restoration for an urban national park. He facilitated public-private partnerships as well as development projects within the 142-acre Park and 583-acre District. He served as the Executive Director for the Department's Lowell Historic Preservation Commission; Executive Director of the City of Lowell's (City) Arena and Civic Stadium Commission under an intergovernmental personnel agreement between the National Park Service (NPS) and the City; and as the Park's Assistant Superintendent for Historic Preservation and Development. The breadth of his work included managing development of the Park's historic

boardinghouse, canal walkways, trolley system, public art program, and television studios, as well as administering an extensive cultural grants and events program. Mr. Aucella advocated, negotiated, provided technical review, and advised on financing and historic tax credits with the City, banks, and developers, resulting in the adaptive reuse of nearly 98 percent of the 5.3 million square feet of abandoned historic mills in the Park and District. While Mr. Aucella's work focused in and around Lowell, his experience in leveraging Federal dollars for economic revitalization was far reaching. He consulted on the authorizing legislation for Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park (NHP), Keewenaw NHP, and Pullman National Monument. He provided technical assistance to countless other national park sites and hosted tours for local governments and organizations from 8 States and 15 countries. Mr. Aucella is prominently featured in books and has spoken at national and international conferences on urban revitalization.

Karen Osborne

In 2010, Ms. Karen Osborne joined the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). She served as a senior program analyst in Financial Management and a supervisory program analyst in Program & Performance making major contributions to developing and improving congressional relations and Agency Performance Metrics. Ms. Osborne relocated to Washington, DC for 6 months to assume ONRR's congressional liaison responsibilities while continuing to perform her supervisory duties in Denver, Colorado. As a result of her interactions during critical budget negotiations, Ms. Osborne developed a series of standard operating procedures for the congressional liaison office to make future communication with Congress easier, thus greatly facilitating the Agency's relations with Congress. Ms. Osborne spearheaded the Agency's efforts to better align ONRR's Government Performance Results Act metrics with a performance-based measurement system endorsed by the Department of the Interior (Department). As a result of her efforts, measuring ONRR's contribution to the American people is simpler and more transparent. In 2017, Ms. Osborne began supporting the ONRR Directorate by writing briefing papers, preparing congressional testimony, and developing presentations. She contributed to advancing ONRR's information technology modernization and business process reengineering efforts. Ms. Osborne also implements ONRR's external communications functions to facilitate and coordinate information exchange with the Department's Office of Communications and Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, which both seek to strengthen relationships between external stakeholders and State and local partners. Ms. Osborne is also the Department's foremost subject matter expert for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). She led the effort to move accountability for the law from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

to ONRR. While writing the GOMESA Phase II rule, Ms. Osborne briefed the Senate Energy Committee staff and the Louisiana Governor's office on potential impacts of the law. She is responsible for conceptualizing, modeling, and automating the annual GOMESA disbursement calculations and briefing State authorities on the impact of the law and potential disbursements.

Esther C. Horst

In 1988, Ms. Esther C. Horst began her Federal career in the Department of the Interior's (Department) Division of Fiscal Services where she served as an accountant, staff assistant, and acting finance officer. In 1997, Ms. Horst accepted a position with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a systems accountant at the National Business Center and subsequently became the BLM payments group administrator and Accounting Operations Division Chief. Under her direction, BLM began to implement an electronic grant payment system. In August 2002, Ms. Horst was promoted to the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Ms. Horst ensured that unqualified audit opinions were achieved and sustained and guided OSMRE to be one of the first Bureaus to implement the Financial and Business Management System. In January 2012, Ms. Horst became the Assistant Director of Financial Management for the Interior Business Center where she ensured the delivery of financial management shared services to more than 75 Department and external government customers. In June 2014, Ms. Horst accepted an opportunity within the Office of Financial Management to oversee critical custodial reporting functions for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. In October 2017, she was asked to oversee the financial management program and agreed to accept responsibility for the accurate collection and disbursement of an average of $10 billion annually in royalty, rent, and bonus revenue as well as continue oversight of custodial reporting. That same year, she responded to a critical leadership call from the Department to spearhead the timely completion of the Agency's 2017 Annual Financial Report. Throughout her 31 years in Federal service, Ms. Horst has repeatedly accepted challenging assignments and juggled multiple roles to meet important Departmental goals. She provided onsite executive leadership to ensure mission-essential work was completed during the lapse in Federal appropriations. Ms. Horst has mentored others and her gregarious personality has resulted in strong alliances forged within the Department, across the Federal Government, and with important external partners such as the Association of Government Accountants.

Richard T. Beck

Dr. Richard T. Beck provides planning and performance management leadership, guidance, and consulting services to the Department of the Interior's (Department) Bureaus on strategic planning, performance assessment and reporting, and organizational processes to increase programmatic effectiveness and efficiency. This includes developing, maintaining, and ensuring execution of the Department's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan & Report, and oversight of performance management for Congressional Budget Justifications to ensure budget and performance integration. Dr. Beck also interprets and implements laws, policies, Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance and circulars, and Executive and Secretary's orders. He supervises a staff of six senior program analysts who provide direction to Bureau performance staff in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. Dr. Beck has personally worked with four Secretaries to capture their initiatives and priorities and represent them clearly in the Departmental strategic plans. His professionalism, knowledge, and ability to communicate complex ideas have earned him the reputation as an innovative leader in performance management. His tools and strategies for relating performance to funding have gained attention in Federal, State, and local government, as well as the private sector. Dr. Beck's creative analysis and reporting of performance information are held in high regard by the OMB, which has consistently viewed the Department's performance products as a best practice across Government. His leadership and knowledge of programs across the Bureaus and offices have directly contributed to the Department's efforts to successfully execute its Strategic Plan over the past several years.

Barbara N. Coen

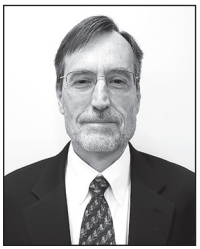
In 1993, Ms. Barbara N. Coen began her career at the Department as an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor. Ms. Coen demonstrated a keen aptitude for complex legal and factual issues of jurisdiction, reservation boundaries, and Tribal status. She drafted and edited countless briefs for presentation before various Federal Courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, she represented the Department in oral arguments concerning the Department's decision to deal directly with the Delaware Tribe—a reversal of the Department's prior decision to communicate with the Tribe through the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Ms. Coen was Department Counsel for both *Navajo v. Hicks* and *Atkinson Trading Company, Inc. v. Shirley,* the two leading Supreme Court cases involving State jurisdiction in Indian Country. She was instrumental

in the defense of the Department's support for the rights of Tribes to give Tribal members a preference in employment related to the development and protection of Tribal trust resources. Most recently, she worked on the development of regulations governing the procedures for reestablishing a formal government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community, which required reexamining the basis of the United States' relationship with indigenous people as well as the authority of the Secretary. Ms. Coen closely coordinated with the Department's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations and the Department of Justice on the substance of the regulations and the responses to comments received following a controversial series of consultations. The Department of Justice has twice recognized her invaluable assistance with Certificates of Commendation; the U.S. Attorney for Connecticut presented her with a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding service for more than a decade in the defense of a land claim. Ms. Coen's efforts to aid in the development of Indian law in the core areas of Tribal status and Tribal jurisdiction furthered the mission of the Office of the Solicitor and the Department and earned the respect of other Federal Agencies.

Robert F. Snow

Mr. Robert F. Snow joined the Solicitor's Office as an Honors Program attorney in 1994. Since that time, he has become one of the Nation's foremost experts on matters related to the Colorado River. Unlike other basins in the West, stakeholders in the Colorado River Basin (Basin) are known for collaborative problem solving and avoiding litigation. Much of the credit for this belongs to Mr. Snow, who developed trusted relationships with the Department's stakeholders. For the last 30 years, Mr. Snow contributed significantly to every legal decision affecting water resources in the Basin. He consistently served as a trusted advisor to the senior leadership of several administrations and worked with staff across the Department to provide legal advice on the agreements and communications needed to implement policy direction. Mr. Snow's efforts extend to his relationships with external stakeholders. He consistently communicated in an effective manner with the leadership and legal advisers of external stakeholders to find common ground and resolve issues. Mr. Snow's legacy is evident in a long list of Colorado River accomplishments. He was instrumental in resolving the litigation over the Central Arizona Project and litigation over California's use of Colorado River water, and played a role in negotiating Colorado River operating agreements for surplus conditions and shortage conditions. He has provided valued counsel when the United States and Mexico needed to resolve contentious matters related to their 1944 Colorado River treaty. Mr. Snow's most recent accomplishment builds on these relationships. Throughout 2018 and 2019, he led the multi-stakeholder team tasked with negotiating the historic Drought Contingency Plan

(DCP). The DCP is an agreement between seven states, Tribes, and water users in the Basin that reduces the risk of ongoing drought and protects important water resources in the West. Over 40 million people and nearly 5.5 million acres of farmland that rely on the Colorado River will benefit from this agreement.



Stephen R. Palmer

Mr. Stephen R. Palmer is one of the foremost practitioners in the field of water law ever to serve in the Federal Government. He counseled and represented the Department, including the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and other Federal agencies, in numerous water rights and water project matters in California and Nevada. These include legal issues critical to the operation of two of the most complex and high-value water systems in the United States—the Central Valley Project and the Klamath Project. The laws affecting the operation of these systems are highly complex, intertwined with other laws, and largely unique to these projects. Interpreting these laws, advising Department senior leaders, and defending the Department's interests required Mr. Palmer to exercise exceptional legal skill. He played an invaluable role in assisting BOR in its compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the protection of Tribal trust resources, and providing irrigation water to farmers. He was also instrumental in crafting guidelines in the early 1990s that set the stage for BOR's successful navigation of these issues. Mr. Palmer served in the leading legal role in securing a vested right to water for national wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin and provided important legal expertise that affected every major component of the Central Valley Project. In addition, he assisted BOR with procurement and financial assistance issues that were pivotal to funding the construction, operation, and improvement of Central Valley Project components. As a leader, Mr. Palmer built a strong team of attorneys whose work is crucial to the successful operation of multiple BOR projects and defense of water rights throughout California and Nevada. This team will continue his legacy for years to come.

Jessie V. Cheek

During her career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Ms. Jessie V. Cheek delivered effective human capital management through her expertise and extensive technical knowledge. As a result of her expert skill and resourcefulness, she provided critical guidance and ensured compliance with a broad array of policies, regulations, and laws, including the merit system principles, veterans' preference rules, and the Federal hiring process. Ms. Cheek's initiative and efforts resulted in the successful design, development, and implemen-

tation of the FWS Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows Program—a centralized, direct hire program that has contributed to a more diverse and inclusive organization. She was responsible for the overall administration and execution of the program. Through her efforts, the FWS entered into a partnership agreement with the Student Conservation Association to build a pipeline of highly qualified and diverse candidates for entry-level positions in biological sciences, natural resources management, and refuge management science. As a result of Ms. Cheek's skill and perseverance, the FWS effectively leveraged the Office of Personnel Management-approved Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Authority and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, which enabled the FWS to restructure the organization through voluntary attrition, while streamlining core business processes, containing costs, and supporting succession planning to meet organizational needs and enhance mission capabilities. Ms. Cheek has been recognized as a trusted senior advisor by leadership in the field, regional offices, and headquarters. Throughout her career, she has served as an extraordinary role model to senior professionals and has inspired human capital management staff.

John L. Boatwright (posthumous)

The late Dr. John (Jack) Boatwright, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), is highly regarded for his studies of earthquakes and the damaging ground shaking they produce. Dr. Boatwright's work spanned the realm from scientific study to hazard mitigation. He specialized in bridging gaps from scientific discovery to real-world application and formed productive partnerships with scientists, engineers, and regional, State, and national agencies who act to create a safer setting for the public. Dr. Boatwright extensively studied how earthquake-generated ground shaking is manifested and developed novel approaches to image the properties of earthquake sources and wave propagation. He performed intensive studies of modern earthquakes and is widely appreciated for his contributions to, and leadership of, the current state of knowledge about earthquakes and the resulting strong shaking in earthquake-prone regions in the United States and eastern Canada. He applied his new methods to better understand the amplitudes and direction of seismic source propagation and the seismic energy generated by these earthquakes. Dr. Boatwright's findings have been used by those considering everything from nuclear power plant safety to housing livestock in areas exposed to earthquake hazards. His extensive analysis of the historical earthquake on the Hayward fault that shook the San Francisco Bay area 150 years ago, before seismic stations existed in this country, has been key to our understanding of both current and future earthquakes. Dr. Boatwright also led the science program for the northern California region of the USGS Earthquake Hazards program and served as the leader of the USGS project investigating earthquake effects.

Sarah J. Converse

Dr. Sarah J. Converse is an internationally recognized U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) research ecologist known for her development of quantitative methods to improve the estimation of demographic parameters in wildlife populations and the application of structured decision making to address complex natural resource issues. She is particularly noted for her Whooping Crane recovery and research, quantitative ecology, and the application of decision science as a management tool in support of Federal trust agencies. Over the past decade, Dr. Converse published scientific papers on all aspects of Whooping Crane biology, ecology, and conservation. She was a driving force behind the creation and implementation of a Species Survival Plan for Whooping Cranes, a cooperatively managed international program of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums overseeing population management of select species designed to enhance conservation in the wild. Her work benefitted other imperiled species such as polar bears and the lesser prairie chicken. She was instrumental in developing a training curriculum for decision analysis at the National Conservation Training Center where she has trained numerous natural resource managers and scientists. Dr. Converse most recently served as an editor and co-author of select chapters of the 2018 book, "Whooping Cranes: Biology and Conservation." This publication brings together decades of research and innovative management approaches that will provide lasting benefits to crane conservation and captive breeding worldwide.

John L. Dwyer

Mr. John L. Dwyer is recognized nationally and internationally for his leadership and support of land remote sensing research. This research provides accurate and relevant data, information, and knowledge to policy makers and emergency management personnel throughout the world. Mr. Dwyer has fostered a strong culture of scientific integrity and excellence, and he played a key role in setting the strategic vision for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) EROS Center. Mr. Dwyer advanced the Department of the Interior (Department) Landsat operational satellite mission and he defined the science requirements to be filled by the operational satellite constellation. He collaborated with the broader satellite remote sensing community, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Department of Agriculture; and private sector companies to determine the science inputs needed for the on-orbit satellites. Mr. Dwyer provided leadership and management for scientific research and application of the output from the

Landsat system. He led the effort to transform science and technical information into actionable information. He applied a unique combination of expertise to the complexities of remote sensing science and Federal program management. He ensured that global leaders received expert scientific assessments of the rates, causes, and consequences of land change essential to addressing societal benefits. Using his professional relationships with the broader land remote sensing science community, Mr. Dwyer expanded the application of USGS science capabilities across the international satellite information community. He provided instrumental leadership on the global stage in conducting systematic scientific characterization of the Earth system.

John B. French, Jr.

Dr. John B. French, Jr., is recognized nationally and internationally for his contributions to the advancement of endangered species management. He held a number of influential roles throughout his career, including directing the Whooping Crane Restoration Program and associated research at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center since 2002. He oversaw the operation of North America's largest captive breeding program for Whooping Cranes. Dr. French planned and implemented the reintroduction of the eastern migratory flock and the non-migratory flock in coastal Louisiana while serving on the guidance team of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, the cranes science advisory team for the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife, and as a member of the United States-Canada International Whooping Crane Recovery Team. Dr. French was the driving force in the creation and implementation of a Species Survival Plan for Whooping Cranes, a cooperatively managed international program of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums overseeing population management of select species designed to enhance conservation in the wild. He most recently served as the lead editor and co-author of select chapters of "Whooping Cranes: Biology and Conservation," a 2018 first-edition book consolidating decades of research and innovative management approaches that will provide significant and everlasting benefits to crane conservation and captive breeding worldwide. From 2017 to 2018, he deftly handled the orderly transfer of the USGS breeding flock of Whooping Cranes and related knowledge to partners in the recovery program.

Susan M. Haig

Dr. Susan M. Haig is recognized throughout the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Department of the Interior, and the international community of wildlife practitioners, as a leader in the science of applied ornithology and a trailblazer in modern conservation biology. Dr. Haig's studies of declining avian species have influenced how scientists, policymakers, and wildlife managers prevent endangered animals from becoming extinct. She cofounded the field of conservation genetics and was the first to apply molecular genetics to reintroduction strategies for endangered birds. She devised captive breeding plans for multiple avian species, including Whooping Cranes and California condors, and developed genetics research on at-risk animals, redefining how we understand species and subspecies. By working across global landscapes and integrating techniques from multiple disciplines, Dr. Haig pioneered the fields of full life-cycle biology and migratory connectivity defining how we assess where and when migratory animals are at risk, and where conservation efforts are most effectively applied. She cocreated the Migratory Connectivity Project to link information about animal movement over large areas, which wildlife agencies throughout the Western Hemisphere now use to guide conservation planning. She provided scientific leadership for several national and international species recovery efforts; her leadership of the International Piping Plover Recovery Team resulted in the recovery of that endangered bird. Dr. Haig's peers have labeled her "the most important scientist in the Nation in the field of avian conservation genetics." She has been recognized with top honors, including election as president of the American Ornithologists' Union, the world's largest professional ornithological society, and the lifetime achievement award of the Cooper Ornithological Society. Dr. Haig's tireless dedication to solving problems with sound, innovative science has resulted in several species going from facing extinction to recovery.

Richard M. Iverson

Dr. Richard M. Iverson, the world's leading researcher in debris-flow physics, has revolutionized the field of landslide and debris-flow dynamics. He effectively communicates the hazards of those processes and develops practical tools for emergency and land-management authorities responsible for risk mitigation. His multiple awards and election as an American Geophysical Union Fellow demonstrate why he is widely considered one of the most influential scientists working in the field of physical Earth-surface processes. His publications in the fields of geophysics, hydrology, volcanology, geomorphology, and engineering have influenced the direction of research groups worldwide.

Dr. Iverson's innovative theories have been extensively tested through novel large-scale experiments at a unique and world-renowned outdoor debris-flow flume that he conceived, designed, and developed. Those theories underpin cutting-edge models that provide vital insights into the mechanical and hydrological controls on landslide and debris-flow behavior. These models are used to guide hazards assessments and to develop monitoring strategies and interagency response plans in landslide-prone landscapes, especially around volcanoes. His extensive knowledge of landslide hazards has led to emergency response agencies seeking input from the U.S. Geological Survey during national crises—particularly following the devastating 2014 Oso landslide in Washington State where his initial inspections and modeling helped guide rescue and recovery efforts. His simple and user-friendly model depicting debris-flow-hazard zones around volcanoes replaced imprecise and subjective assessments with more defensible and objective ones. This tool, LaharZ, has become a standard assessment technique at volcanoes worldwide and forms the basis for many U.S. Agency for International Development-supported workshops and hazards assessments. Dr. Iverson's steadfast commitment to elucidating fundamental principles of mass-movement behavior, translating those principles into well-crafted models honed through meticulous experimental testing, and developing practical hazard-assessment tools, has produced exemplary research and promoted public safety.

Jill McCarthy

Dr. Jill McCarthy is widely recognized and highly respected for transforming several key U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) capabilities into world-class operational and research facilities. Following the devastating Sumatra earthquake in 2004, Dr. McCarthy was responsible for developing the USGS Geologic Hazards Science Center's (Center) National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) into the world's premier earthquake monitoring operation. As a result, the NEIC has become one of the most publicly recognized and appreciated operations within the Department of the Interior. Dr. McCarthy expanded the USGS Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory (ASL) into the world's premier seismic equipment testing facility. During her tenure, the ASL-operated Global Seismographic Network has been expanded and modernized: stations were added in the Caribbean; the network was fully converted to real-time data; aging dataloggers were upgraded; and the fielding of a set of new borehole sensors is underway. The ASL's domestic operations were expanded to include the Advanced National Seismic System "backbone" network, as well as the recently established Central and Eastern U.S. Seismic Network. Both the USGS Landslide Hazards and Geomagnetism Programs are largely implemented through the Center. Under Dr. McCarthy's leadership, the programs have greatly advanced the ability

to deliver actionable products—notably the debris-flow hazard assessments that support public land and emergency managers by informing communities at risk, and new geomagnetic hazard maps of the Nation. Because of her visionary and strategic staffing efforts, the Center houses highly talented and prolific researchers. Her extraordinary leadership ensures that USGS Hazards Programs will continue to provide essential products and services necessary to inform, assess, and mitigate geologic hazards and save lives throughout the world.

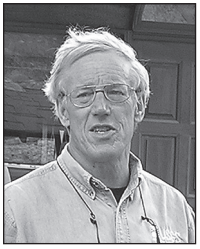
Arthur F. McGarr

Dr. Arthur F. McGarr is internationally recognized for his fundamental contributions to understanding earthquakes and the resulting ground shaking in both tectonically active earthquake areas and regions of human-induced seismicity. He has produced innovative scientific explanations for how earthquakes work using close-in observations from the field and the laboratory. Dr. McGarr has investigated the behavior of Earth's rocks under stress in a number of ways, including by observing deep gold mines in South Africa, studying recordings of small earthquakes in the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) rock mechanics laboratories, and analyzing seismic signals recorded from large earthquakes throughout the world. His work has advanced the understanding of the scaling of important parameters in the earthquake rupture process. As a scientific leader and mentor, he is known for his wisdom, compassion, dedication, and fairness. Dr. McGarr has frequently communicated with the media and the public, explaining the facts of the latest findings about human-induced earthquakes—a topic of concern in many parts of the Nation. He served on national and international committees investigating the likelihood of dam and mine failure due to seismic faulting, won awards for his work as a peer-reviewer, and served as associate editor for the world's leading seismology journal, the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. He served as an advisor for national and international organizations, State and local governments, other Federal agencies, and international scientific drilling projects. Dr. McGarr's insight and experience have elevated our understanding about how earthquakes are generated and how and where they radiate their damaging seismic energy. He used these findings to translate his basic science discoveries into evaluations of earthquake hazards at critical facilities in the United States and other countries.

Andrew J. Michael

Dr. Andrew J. Michael is an internationally-recognized expert in seismology known for his fundamental contributions to earthquake probabilities, seismic hazard assessment, and the nature of the Earth's crust near active faults. Dr. Michael's work has been directly applied to our Nation's earthquake hazard evaluations for areas of tectonic and human-induced earthquakes. He served as an advisor to other countries, such as Nepal, to help government officials understand the likelihood of aftershocks following destructive large earthquakes. Dr. Michael is a pioneer in using earthquake focal mechanism data to evaluate the state of stress on faults in the Earth's crust, and the methods he developed are now standard procedures used by scientists worldwide. Dr. Michael is highly regarded for his groundbreaking work on earthquake statistics and its application to earthquake hazard assessment. He applied his expertise to the topic of induced seismicity, focusing on incorporating new understanding of this phenomenon into seismic hazard maps for the United States. His leadership as a member of the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Committee has been an invaluable asset to the Committee and the Bureau. He served as editor-in-chief of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (Society), and his contributions earned him the Society's Distinguished Service Award. He currently serves as the president of the Society, the world's leading professional organization dedicated to advancing seismology and the understanding of earthquakes. Dr. Michael is an innovative communicator of science who collaborates broadly to teach everyone from government leaders to the public about earthquakes, how they work, and how they affect our daily lives.

John A. Moody



Mr. John A. Moody is recognized as a leader in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and broader scientific community in the areas of fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport processes–in particular, hydrologic response in the aftermath of wildfire. His research has ensured the continuation of a one-of-a-kind long-term river morphology data set on the Powder River in Montana. He continues to use the Powder River data to expand understanding of geomorphic processes of high plains river systems. The Powder River data provides sufficient detail for researchers to test sediment transport and geomorphic hypothesis and models. Mr. Moody's research in the aftermath of wildfires in the Western United States has resulted in the development of important techniques for emergency managers that help them to make life saving decisions in preparing

for floods that typically result from wildfires. His report, "An Analytic Method for Predicting Post Wildfire Peak Discharges," was used by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to estimate potential peak flows following the devastating Thomas Fire in California. Mr. Moody has worked on developing new data sets that assist with understanding the hydrologic properties of burned soils, which are crucial for accurate flood modeling in burned areas. He has authored numerous reports and papers on fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport processes and was the organizer of an American Geophysical Union Chapman Conference on post-wildfire runoff and erosion response. He has worked to pass on his knowledge and expertise by mentoring students and collaborating with scientists worldwide.

Cheryl A. Morris

Ms. Cheryl A. Morris serves as the director of the Core Science Analytics and Synthesis and Library Branch of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Core Science Systems Mission Area. She is widely recognized for her outstanding leadership efforts to increase the availability and usability of USGS scientific research results. Ms. Morris championed the development and implementation of USGS policies, information delivery systems, and communities of practice necessary to increase access to the high volume of USGS science publications and datasets produced each year. Her efforts include leading the development of ScienceBase, an electronic repository that permanently curates project data, increases sharing and collaboration across science disciplines, and provides long-term open access to research results. Since its inception, ScienceBase has released thousands of USGS datasets to researchers throughout the world and was recently certified as the first-ever Trusted Digital Repository for the Department of the Interior, an achievement reserved only for repositories that meet the high standards set by the American Geophysical Union. Ms. Morris conceptualized and assembled the USGS Community for Data Integration (CDI), a nationwide community of over 500 scientists and managers with interest in improving data availability and integration. Ms. Morris' leadership led to the development and implementation of robust policies, creative software solutions, information technology infrastructure, and training curriculum in a USGS-wide effort to effectively analyze, synthesize, deliver, and preserve science data. Her accomplishments and data availability practices serve as a model for other Agencies as demonstrated by the prestigious Excellence.gov award presented to the CDI from the American Council for Technology. Ms. Morris' efforts have made USGS publications and datasets more readily searchable and available by the public and scientist researchers worldwide and have greatly advanced USGS capabilities to apply interdisciplinary science to solve today's complex societal issues. Through the implementation of USGS policies, she has ensured that best-practices for data management have been institutionalized well into the future.

Leonid A. Neymark

Dr. Leonid A. Neymark, a research chemist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), made significant contributions to understanding the timing and rates of fundamental processes occurring within many different geologic settings. He addressed difficult scientific questions by creative technique development in support of the mission of the USGS. His investigations applying a variety of stable and radiogenic isotope methods to assess the suitability of volcanic tuffs as a possible geologic repository for long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste is without precedent. Dr. Neymark's careful work on the geochronology of amorphous silica (opal) and calcrete precipitated from ancient groundwater at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada introduced novel approaches to past records of groundwater presence and mobility. His work on Yucca Mountain opal and other groundwater precipitates represents critical data for decision makers in determining the geologic suitability of this area for long-term radioactive waste storage. In another significant line of research, Dr. Neymark showed how stable strontium isotopes record subtle changes in the geologic record of global ocean water chemistry and how this data could be used as a potential mineral resources prospecting tool. His innovative approach to solving complex questions is most recently exemplified by his work on in situ laser ablation of apatite and cassiterite and how they can be related to the timing of ore deposit formation. Dr. Neymark is widely recognized both nationally and internationally for his scientific leadership. He is the quintessential collegial team member of large projects and is valued for his enduring contributions in the laboratory, discussions, mentorship, and published works on behalf of USGS.

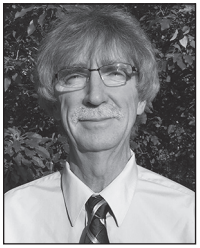
David A. Pyke

Dr. David A. Pyke made extensive contributions to the science guiding management of rangelands throughout the world, but particularly those managed by the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He was instrumental in advancing the preservation and restoration of sagebrush ecosystems through his expertise in rangeland ecology and monitoring, habitat and post-fire restoration, and invasive species biology. Dr. Pyke has played pivotal leadership roles in the success of multi-disciplinary teams of scientists that tackle the complex problems of managing multi-use rangelands. Dr. Pyke has been involved with various institutions, investigations, and disciplines in testing the use of fire and other management treatments on sagebrush ecosystems, particularly as a means for maintaining sagebrush communities in the face of invasive species. His work is the first attempt to develop studies on the effects of fires across multiple ecological regions and predict thresholds on

vegetation communities. His research has yielded numerous publications, including a three-part handbook on sagebrush restoration that the BLM uses to teach its restoration practitioners. Dr. Pyke's work on fire rehabilitation and its effects helped establish a systematic monitoring program of 100 sites where restoration approaches have been applied to provide data for the development of probabilistic models of success. His project, "Assessing and Measuring Land Health Status on Rangelands," developed techniques to determine if a given rangeland area is at its potential or is deteriorating. This methodology covers a range of experimental and monitoring approaches that uses ecological concepts and theories and synthesizes current knowledge. It has been translated into guidelines for management and has been adopted by the BLM, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the countries of Mexico, China, Mongolia, Iran, and Botswana.

Bruce K. Quirk

Dr. Bruce K. Quirk has been nationally recognized for his leadership and support of land remote sensing satellite development and the distribution of critical information about the Earth's surface to scientists and decision makers worldwide. While Program Coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Land Remote Sensing Program, he was instrumental in securing support and providing technical leadership for the development and launch of Landsat 8, thereby ensuring the continuation of the longest and most comprehensive record of the Earth's surface in existence. Dr. Quirk helped enable the free and open Landsat data policy, which exponentially increased the distribution of the satellite archive, fostering an unprecedented increase in land change science and applications, as well as a tremendous economic benefit to the United States — estimated at $2 billion annually. He designed and implemented a series of commercial satellite data contracts, tirelessly working across agencies to successfully acquire more than $100 million of data for less than $1 million, and distributing it to Federal, State, and local governments to further science applications and research. Dr. Quirk was one of the first to champion the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) within the Federal sector. As the UAS Liaison for the USGS National Land Imaging Program, Dr. Quirk demonstrated proactive leadership in establishing and promoting UAS data collection as an efficient, safe, and cost effective remote sensing tool for scientists. Dr. Quirk developed program and policy recommendations on all aspects of the application of UAS technology to science and land resource management. His persistence in engaging researchers across the Department of the Interior in various UAS and sensor technology evaluations has proved instrumental to a plethora of Earth science investigations.



Christopher J. Schenk

Dr. Christopher J. Schenk is an internationally recognized research geologist whose focus on understanding petroleum systems has made him one of the world's foremost experts on oil and gas resource assessments. Dr. Schenk led the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Energy Resources Program (ERP) efforts to inventory the world's undiscovered oil and gas resources. He personally assessed or overseen the assessment of the petroleum resource potential in more than 200 basins around the world. His independent and pioneering research, vast knowledge and experience, and ability to integrate the complex thermal evolution of petroleum source rocks with migration processes has guided the scientific framework for USGS probabilistic resource assessments. His publications, workshops, presentations, and other critical products are sought by industry, United States and foreign governments, academia, and the public worldwide. Dr. Schenk has been the driving force in the development of a consistent, peer-approved methodology to assess both continuous and conventional petroleum accumulations. He serves as the technical lead on the formal ERP assessment review panel and ensures that all USGS petroleum assessments follow vetted peer-reviewed methodologies and technical requirements. As Chief of the National and Global Assessment of Oil and Gas Project (NAGA) within ERP, Dr. Schenk coordinates this highly complex, mission-critical project, and ensures that this congressionally-mandated work is delivered to policymakers at all levels of government as well as the public. The NAGA project's results are considered the gold standard for petroleum resource assessments, both nationally and internationally.

David H. Schoellhamer

Dr. David H. Schoellhamer devoted his career to expanding knowledge of cohesive sediment behavior, at scales ranging from microscopic clay particles to entire watersheds. His insights have been widely used by other researchers and by resource agencies striving to manage water and estuarine environments in the United States and elsewhere. His efforts, particularly in California's San Francisco Bay and Delta region, have prompted a noteworthy shift in how sediment is viewed; recognizing it as a resource for, rather than an impediment to, healthy ecosystems and habitat restoration. In the 1990s, Dr. Schoellhamer initiated a sediment transport measurement program in San Francisco Bay. Today, the program consists of a network of real-time water quality stations throughout the Bay, each reporting data at 15-minute intervals. The information is used daily by resource managers to satisfy regulatory requirements linked to water delivery systems, and by scientists to advance knowledge of estua-

rine physics and sediment transport. He documented temporal changes in the sediment budget of the region that are important for long-term ecosystem health. Dr. Schoellhamer published and presented his findings consistently and widely, via peer-reviewed archival publications, conference proceedings, and talks. He mentored many employees, including several who have gone on to be highly successful scientists in their own right. Dr. Schoellhamer was actived internationally within his research field, frequently participating in the International Conference on Cohesive Sediment Transport Processes. He is a respected source of USGS technical expertise to the California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program, among others. In addition to his substantial research contributions, he is highly respected by his colleagues for his integrity, dedication, and enthusiasm for his work.

Mary E. Wood

Ms. Mary E. Wood has advanced the scientific and programmatic priorities of the Core Science Systems (CSS) Mission Area of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) since its inception in 2010. She has provided outstanding leadership in the areas of strategic planning, program and budget development and execution, and financial management. Using a combination of her strong science background and extensive business acumen, Ms. Wood worked in partnership with the CSS senior leadership team to build a vision and capacity for bringing together USGS's geologic, topographic, and biologic mapping programs into the new CSS Mission Area. Overseeing a team of financial professionals, she developed novel fiscal practices and standard operating procedures that maximize investments in science, while ensuring accountability, transparency, and integrity. Ms. Wood has demonstrated a unique ability to grasp the societal benefits of CSS science programs and to communicate that understanding through the budget process. Through her efforts and vision, programs such as the 3D Elevation Program, Alaska Map Modernization, The National Map, and National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program are considered "gold standards" for collaborative Federal/State programs. In her role as the Senior Management Officer, Ms. Wood's expertise and leadership were critical in creating a unified CSS strategy to respond to budget and fiscal challenges such as the 2010 USGS realignment, 2013 Budget Control Act, and 2014 Campaign to Cut Waste.

Citizen's Award for Bravery

The Citizen's Award for Bravery is granted to private citizens for heroic acts or unusual bravery in the face of danger. Recipients have risked their lives to save the life of a Departmental employee or the life of any other person while on property owned by or entrusted to the Department of the Interior. A special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary is presented to each recipient.

Award Recipient

Nominated by the National Park Service

Rory Farrell

While vacationing at Yosemite National Park on September 3, 2017, Mr. Rory Farrell witnessed a large tree fall onto an occupied car, completely crushing the passenger compartment. He approached the vehicle and saw two unconscious victims, an adult and a small child, trapped inside the vehicle. Mr. Farrell was able to access the victims through a window where he determined the woman was not breathing. He successfully administered artificial respiration and directed her extrication by bystanders. He focused next on the 4-year-old boy who was pinned under the collapsed roof and found that he was not breathing. Using his back as a brace, Mr. Farrell pushed the collapsed roof up, enabling him to extricate the stranded child and once again administer artificial respiration. Unfortunately, there was no response from the child, so he passed the child out of the car to bystanders in order to further assess the child's needs and provide appropriate care. He quickly determined that the child's airway was occluded. He manually removed the airway obstructions and again administered artificial respiration, causing the child to begin breathing again. He properly positioned the child, gave ongoing care to both patients, and provided critical patient information to emergency dispatchers until National Park Service personnel arrived on the scene to provide further care and transportation. Mr. Farrell's actions that evening saved the lives of two individuals, a mother and her son. The situation he encountered was hazardous, and his actions were heroic. For his courageous and selfless actions in the face of unknown danger, Rory Farrell is granted the Citizen's Award for Bravery of the Department of the Interior.

Valor Awards

The Valor Award is presented to Department of the Interior employees who have demonstrated unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger. The act of heroism is not required to be related to official duties or to have occurred at the official duty station. Recipients receive a citation signed by the Secretary and an engraved gold Valor Award Medal.

Valor Awards

Award Recipients

Bureau of Land Management

Karl Hilderbrand
Bryce Stewart

National Park Service

Thomas M. Healy
Jack J. Hoeflich
Jeffrey A. Pirog
Eric D. Small
Aaron E. Smith

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Frank Berry, Jr.
Chad H. Coles
Patrick M. James
Angel L. Toro

Valor Awards

Award Recipients

Frank Berry, Jr.

On May 21, 2018, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge employee Mr. Frank Berry, Jr., acted quickly and at great personal risk to save a person from drowning. Mr. Berry is a maintenance mechanic and one of only two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees working in the remote Alaskan village of Selawik. Mr. Berry rose early and went to the riverbank to check on the Refuge's boat as the river ice had broken up only the previous day. Mr. Berry had put the boat in the water in preparation for immediate use for the season. From the shoreline, Mr. Berry saw a semi-conscious person in the river, stranded on a floating piece of ice. Acting quickly, and with the aid of a bystander, Mr. Berry drove the boat to rescue the person who had subsequently fallen off the ice and was in the near-freezing water. The two rescuers were able to get the victim into the boat, back to land, and to the local clinic for medical treatment.

Patrick M. James

On January 29, 2017, Federal Wildlife Officer (FWO) Patrick M. James received a call from an airboat concessionaire that a gate at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge had been rammed and knocked down. FWO James responded and determined that a vehicle struck the steel gate and posts, and continued west on the L-39 levee. FWO James began searching for the vehicle using the muddy tracks it left in the Everglades on a road closed to the public. He followed the tracks for 13 miles to the gates at the southwest portion of the Refuge where he lost all signs of a vehicle due to the rains. He then searched north for 15 miles. FWO James asked for assistance, but no one was available. On a hunch, he turned south on a rarely used and overgrown track that led into a state wildlife management area. After another 12 miles, he located a van in a canal at the Browns Farm Wildlife Management Area. The vehicle had gone down an embankment, was partially submerged in the canal, and was in danger of slipping deeper into the canal at any time. The vehicle was not running and its windows were fogged over. FWO James approached the rear of the vehicle and thought he heard a voice coming from inside the van. As he entered the cold water, in an alligator habitat, and approached the vehicle, FWO James observed a 70-year old man sitting in the driver's seat with water up to his waist. FWO James reached the driver's side and opened the door. After some intense effort and in danger of slipping further into the depths of the canal, FWO James pulled the man out of the vehicle, up the bank of the levee, and into his patrol vehicle. He helped to get the man dry and warm, and conducted a preliminary assessment of his injuries. FWO James transported the man to waiting Palm Beach County Fire/Emergency Medical Services units.

Chad H. Coles
Angel L. Toro

On the night of August 2, 2018, at a remote and isolated location along the U.S.-Mexico border in South Texas, Federal Wildlife Officers (FWO) Chad H. Coles and Angel L. Toro assisted the U.S. Border Patrol with the rescue and apprehension of three subjects who illegally entered the country. The subjects attempted to elude capture by entering water-filled irrigation canals. The canals, made from concrete and filled with debris from floodwaters, are extremely hazardous due to the accumulation of waste. Two of the three subjects were quickly removed and apprehended. Some of the U.S. Border Patrol agents were unable to continue the search for the third subject due to declining fuel. Three remaining Border Patrol agents and FWO Coles and FWO Toro continued searching for the third subject. One hour later, the third subject was found unresponsive clinging to a branch in the canal. FWO Coles realized the subject required immediate assistance. FWO Coles, without delay, donned the only life jacket and entered the water. FWO Toro entered the water at the edge of the canal, without a lifejacket, clinging to small trees and thick brush, at times having to force the vegetation down into the water to create a path that allowed him to guide FWO Coles to the subject. From this spot FWO Toro, with the assistance of U.S. Border Patrol agents, used flashlights to guide FWO Coles to quickly reach the subject, who had sunk below the water surface. The team was able to pull the subject from the water to safety. Without the assistance of FWO Coles and FWO Toro, the rescue of the third subject would not have been successful.

Karl Hilderbrand
Bryce Stewart

On May 27, 2018, while patrolling Bureau-administered public land, Field Staff Ranger Karl Hilderbrand, and Ranger Bryce Stewart, observed a suspicious white van parked in an area of high public use. Ranger Hilderbrand and Ranger Stewart decided to conduct a welfare check on the van, driving to its location. Once there, Ranger Hilderbrand and Ranger Stewart observed a lone subject sitting in the driver's seat. Upon making contact with the subject, they observed a large caliber revolver on the vehicle's dashboard, inches from the subject's hands. When Ranger Hilderbrand asked the subject if he could secure the firearm while they talked, the subject grabbed the gun and fired at Ranger Stewart, hitting him in the chest with a .357-caliber round. Immediately reacting to the threat, Ranger Hilderbrand and Ranger Stewart drew their firearms and returned fire, mortally wounding the subject. Fortunately, Ranger Stewart was wearing a bullet-resistant vest and escaped a potentially life-threatening injury. Ranger Hilderbrand and Ranger Stewart followed their training and worked effectively as a team to subdue the threat. They

Valor Awards

(Continued)

calmly and professionally communicated with each other, and also with their radio dispatch. The Rangers remained focused and ensured the subject was no longer a threat until back-up units arrived on the scene. Since this incident, Ranger Hilderbrand and Ranger Stewart have shared their experience and lessons learned with Bureau managers, law enforcement officers, and personnel from outside agencies on numerous occasions, to the benefit of all and the Bureau as a whole.

Thomas M. Healy
Jack J. Hoeflich

On February 24, 2019, Yosemite National Park received a report of a hiker who had been seriously injured by falling ice and rock in a closed area. National Park Service Ranger Thomas M. Healy and Ranger Jack J. Hoeflich were dispatched on a search and rescue assignment. The area had been closed during the wintertime due to severe hazards. These hazards included overhead falling rock and a treacherously steep slope leading to an adjacent whitewater river. Responding promptly, Ranger Healy and Ranger Hoeflich entered the closed area, despite large rocks and blocks of ice frequently falling around them. Ranger Healy entered the closed area first, locating the injured hiker and four other hikers who were trapped by falling ice and rock. Ranger Healy determined that the injured hiker was deceased. He then turned his attention to guiding the survivors to shelter. He found them a large boulder for protection from the falling debris. Ranger Hoeflich arrived and entered the closed area, concluding that the risk of serious injury was too great for other members of the rescue team that he led to the scene. Ranger Hoeflich set up ropes through the most exposed areas in anticipation of extricating Ranger Healy and the survivors. Upon accessing the group, Ranger Hoeflich conferred with Ranger Healy and determined that extrication through the exposed area was unacceptably risky and a rescue helicopter was therefore needed. While waiting for the helicopter, Rangers Hoeflich and Ranger Healy comforted the traumatized survivors and protected them from ongoing hazards at the scene. The survivors were evacuated via helicopter. The deceased hiker was evacuated through a series of challenging hoist maneuvers, made challenging by steady winds. With darkness approaching, Ranger Hoeflich and Ranger Healy were the last to leave the scene. As they were hoisted into the air, a large avalanche occurred, directly threatening both rescuers and the helicopter itself. Fortunately, Ranger Hoeflich, Ranger Healy, and the helicopter crew emerged unscathed.

Jack J. Hoeflich
Timothy Lyons (Citizen's Award for Bravery)
Jeffrey A. Pirog
Eric D. Small
Aaron E. Smith

On October 3, 2014, Jack J. Hoeflich, Timothy Lyons, Jeffrey A. Pirog, Eric Small, and Aaron E. Smith were part of a complex and dangerous rescue operation in Yosemite National Park. Park dispatch received a report of a climber fall at Camp IV, a bivouac ledge located 1,700 feet up the famous climbing route "The Nose," on El Capitan. A climber from another team called 911 and reported that a climber had fallen 20 feet, hitting a rock head first, and had been upside down and unconscious for about 10 minutes. Based on the reported injuries and need for immediate high-level medical care, the Incident Command Team (ICT) launched a rescue operation to deploy rescuers to Camp IV via helicopter.
The ICT consisted of helicopter pilot Tim Lyons, helicopter managers and short-haul spotters Eric Small and Jeff Pirog, and helicopter rescue team members Aaron Smith and Jack Hoeflich. The helicopter lifted from El Capitan Meadow with Ranger Hoeflich suspended by a short-haul line. Mr. Lyons positioned Ranger Hoeflich near Camp IV, approximately 10 feet above and 20 feet out from the top ledge. While suspended from the helicopter, Ranger Hoeflich threw a coil of rope to the victim's partner, who caught it and held on, allowing him to pull himself to the wall, secure himself, and then disconnect from the shorthaul line. Moments later, Mr. Smith was short hauled to the same position using the same technique. The team rapidly set anchors, descended to the injured climber, and placed him in the rescue litter. Through precision pilot work and critical communication between the spotters, pilot, and rescuers, Mr. Lyons positioned the empty ring of the short-haul line at a straight angle to the rescuers. Using a collapsible pole, the rescuers were able to hook the short-haul line and pull in the ring. Once Mr. Lyons was ready, the short haul ring was connected to the litter and to Mr. Smith. The ICT then worked together to cut the line—releasing the climber and Mr. Smith from the wall to swing under the helicopter. The helicopter returned to El Capitan Meadow, where the injured climber was transferred to a waiting medical helicopter and flown to a trauma center. Each team member performed a vital role in the intricate rescue operation. The mission might have ended tragically if not for their heroic actions.

Meritorious Service Awards

The Meritorious Service Award is the second highest honorary recognition granted to employees in the Department of the Interior. It is presented for an important contribution to science or management, a notable career, superior service in administration or in the execution of duties, or initiative in devising new and improved work methods, and procedures. A special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary, as well as an engraved silver Meritorious Service Medal and silver lapel pin are presented to recipients by their Bureau or Office head. These are the recipients who have been honored since the last Departmental Honor Awards Convocation on July 4, 2018.

Meritorious Service Awards

Award Recipients

Bureau of Land Management

Linda Clark

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Heather A. Blood
Heather A. Crowley
Richard P. Desselles, Jr.
Thomas W. Farndon

Interior Business Center

Connie M. Sanborn
Linda Y. Rihel-Todd

National Park Service

Richard Obernesser

Office of the Secretary

Rayleen Cruz
Debra R. Lange
Barry C. Noll
Kevin P. O'Brien
Nancy A. Reif
David R. Schuller
Lisa J. Weldy

Office of the Solicitor

Belva J. Magill

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Micheal L. Burroughs
Reginald Lanier
William A. Meeks

Meritorious Service Awards

(Continued)

U.S. Geological Survey

Nancy H. Baumgartner
Kevin J. Breen
Linda E. Leake
Gilpin R. Robinson
Kurt R. Spicer
Marilyn E. Tennyson
Justin L. Welty
Charles D. Blome
Randall W. Jibson
Susan L. Phillips
Eugene S. Schweig III
Laura A. Stern
Beth A. Vairin
Nelson E. Williams

The Star Spangled Banner Lyrics

By Francis Scott Key 1814

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

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