



# **Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**

## **The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual** Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program

***The Best In  
The Business***

**Federal Employees  
of the Year**

# **Awards**

***2007***

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
*Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program*

***The Best In The Business***

**Federal Employees  
of the Year**

**2007**

***Awards***

*Printing Courtesy of  
Veterans Affairs Regional Office*





# **The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**

## **Policy Board Fiscal Year 2007**

---

**Robyn Thorson, *Chair***  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Anne Lewandowski, *First Vice Chair***  
**Social Security Administration**

**Terrence Virden, *Second Vice Chair***  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**Jeffrey Alger, *Treasurer***  
**Veterans Affairs Regional Office**

**Judge Diane Townsend-Anderson**  
**Social Security Administration**

**W. Charles Becoat**  
**Food and Drug Administration**

**Diane Langer**  
**Federal Aviation Administration**

**Col. Eric Ahlness**  
**Minnesota Department of Military Affairs**

**Gerald Krogman**  
**Internal Revenue Service**

**David Reedstrom**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - FSIS**

**Tom Grahek**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - APHIS**

**Edward Daum**  
**Small Business Administration**

**Kevin Lowry**  
**U.S. District Court - U.S. Probation Service**

**Dexter Sidney**  
**Housing and Urban Development**

**Steven Kleinglass**  
**Veterans Affairs Medical Center - Minneapolis**

**Kenneth Kasprisin**  
**Transportation Security Administration**  
**Department of Homeland Security**

**Ronald Chamberlain**  
**Federal Protective Service**  
**Department of Homeland Security**

**Col. Michael Pfenning**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Col. Timothy Tarchick**  
**U.S. Air Force Reserve - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**

**Daniel Osendorf**  
**Veterans Affairs Debt Management Center**

**Pat Culhane**  
**General Services Administration**

**Ryan Kanne**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**

**Jeffery Mayes**  
**U.S. Postal Service, Northland District**

**Jose Medina**  
**Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division**

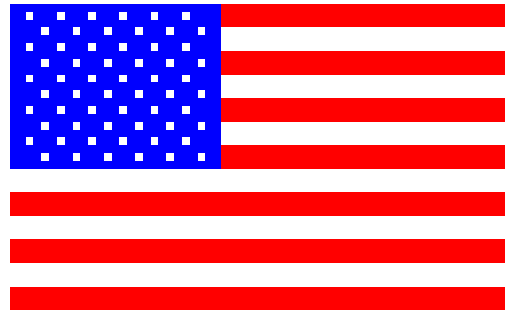
**Tom Sorel**  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**Captain James D. Coulson**  
**U.S. Navy ROTC Detachment**

**Chester Slipek**  
**Farm Credit Administration**

**Barry Bahl, *At Large Member***  
**Veterans Affairs Medical Center - St. Cloud**

**Todd Duncan**  
**FEB Federal Leadership Development Council**



# Federal Employees of the Year Awards Program

*This program honors outstanding Minnesota  
Federal employees who have demonstrated  
exceptional performance and dedication  
as a public servant during Fiscal Year 2006.*

*It also honors Federal employees  
who have rendered voluntary time  
and service to the community  
in which they live.*

*We should all be proud of the many contributions to  
American society that the following individuals  
have performed in service to the  
Citizens of the United States of America*



The  
**Federal Executive Board  
of Minnesota**

Presents the

**2007  
FINALISTS**

for the  
**Federal Employees of the Year  
Awards**





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Susan Miller**

**Plant Physiologist  
Agricultural Research Service, St. Paul, Minnesota**



Ms. Susan Miller is a Plant Physiologist in the USDA/ARS Plant Science Research Unit on the St. Paul Campus. She has been instrumental not only in carrying out excellent experiments in Plant Physiology that have resulted in more than 50 peer reviewed scientific publications but has also been a community leader. She has served on numerous USDA and University of Minnesota committees. Ms. Miller served as Service Unit Manager in Forest Lake for the Girl Scouts, directing 65 troops in the area as well as a troop leader for 13 years. She also served on the Lino Lakes PTO for 3 years. Ms. Miller exemplifies excellence in Federal Service.

### **Beth Burmeister**

**Office Automation Assistant  
Agricultural Research Service, St. Paul, Minnesota**



Beth Burmeister is an active participant on the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Midwest Area Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights. In that capacity, she visited the Fond du Lac Community and Tribal College and facilitated a donation of scientific journals to their library. Beth arranged for representatives and students from the college to tour the North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab and participated in a discussion with the scientific staff and tribal representatives concerning employing summer students, developing internships and exploring potential collaboration. Beth also attended the University of Minnesota Morris chapter of AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) meeting, and encouraged our staff to assist the Sisseton Wahpeton College science department. These activities encourage Native American students to seek careers in science.

### **Barbara Soderberg**

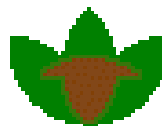
**Public Service Team Leader  
Forest Service, Superior National Forest**



For over 35 years, Barbara Soderberg has provided leadership in managing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the most heavily used and amongst the largest wilderness areas in the nation. From early in her career as a Wilderness Ranger, to her mid-career as Wilderness Specialist, to her current position in Forest Leadership, Barbara has been a champion in protecting the Wilderness and ensuring opportunities for people to enjoy, appreciate, and learn about this national treasure. She has accomplished this by working closely with citizens, government agencies, and local and national interest groups. She is recognized nationally as a leader in wilderness management. Barbara has also provided leadership to the recreation, lands, special uses, surveying, heritage and public information programs on the Superior National Forest.

### **James Jackson**

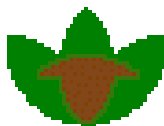
**Human Resources Lead Processing Associate  
USDA APHIS MRPBS HUMAN RESOURCES**



Mr. James Jackson has provided outstanding service to the processing department. He is a valued resource for other team members. His support of his fellow team members is exceptional and noteworthy. Mr. Jackson is consistently available for consultations and always eager to take on new and unusual challenges when they are presented to him. He quickly addresses the issues at hand, and returns with positive outcomes for the team member and the program.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Paul Hanto**

**Facility Services Technician  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service**

Mr. Paul Hanto's performance as the Facility Services Technician throughout 2006 was outstanding. His conference management expertise, facilities engineering skills, physical security assistance and customer service was invaluable to the flawless operation of the USDA's Minneapolis Business Site. He managed and monitored all conference activities associated with seven conference rooms at the Minneapolis Business Site. This entailed the development of procedural guidelines, conference room set up, space design and special equipment configuration. Mr. Hanto possesses exceptional engineering skills. Division Managers and Supervisors seek his guidance on a vast array of issues. Mr. Hanto assesses facility concerns, develops recommendations through coordination with building management and ensures timely solutions. Mr. Hanto improved customer service by establishing effective communication with numerous business sites, employees, supervisors and managers.



### **Paul Kimball**

**Information Technology Specialist  
Food and Nutrition Service**

Paul monitors and manages the operation of a complex, networked environment that supports both internal Food Nutrition Service (FNS) users and external customers nationwide. His knowledge and expertise play a significant role in maintaining the functionality and availability of systems, applications and telecommunications to these users and customers. His dedication to his job and responsibilities plays a key role in supporting the FNS mission.



### **John Strand**

**Loan Specialist (General), Rural Development Manager  
Rural Development, Alexandria**

As the Rural Development Manager in the Alexandria office, John Strand serves his staff well as both an excellent manager and mentor. John is unselfish with his time and expertise. His door is always open when discussion is needed or when mediation is necessary to bring a project deal together. He models a strong work ethic for those he manages. No matter that he has several projects of his own to accomplish, John is always willing to step in and help when needed. John also demonstrates professionalism by being a good guardian of the programs and funds in his charge. He is vigilant in making efficient use of the taxpayer's funds. John deserves this award based on his outstanding leadership, professionalism, and contributions.



### **Lisa Noty**

**Loan Specialist (Commercial), Business Program Specialist  
Rural Development**

Lisa Noty has performed new program duties in Rural Development as if she has been a trained staff member for many years. She has attended and presented at numerous meetings around the state relating to renewable energy. She fielded hundreds of calls and processed over 50 lengthy applications in such a way that the successful projects continued to keep Minnesota as the overall leader in this program. When she is overwhelmed, Lisa doesn't complain but instead goes beyond expectations by taking work home where she continues to provide public service. During one of the few lulls in her busy schedule, she asked for more work to do. Lisa is the ideal employee and the ideal civil servant, exceeding expectations of all who work with her.

*Department of Agriculture*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Judy Lambert

Area Administrative Coordinator  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Ms. Lambert serves 13 NRCS offices in southeast Minnesota as the Area Administrative Coordinator. She has assisted in (5) field offices civil rights reviews to ensure agency compliance. She holds the staff accountable for proper procurement procedures, timeliness of T&As (100% of employees paid timely), travel voucher claims, budgetary needs for all of our offices. She handles controversial issues well to include: leases, training for partners, security –fingerprinting, and landlord building issues. Coordinated ordering of filing cabinets for 100 NRCS offices statewide to improve agency file security. In addition to her own duties, she assists other area offices, the MN NRCS state office, and the NRCS national office. Judy is a cancer fundraiser for the Relay for Life organization, serves on various church committees and the annual Wagon Train fundraiser for the Austin Boys Ranch.

### Sylvia Olson

Accounting Technician  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Sylvia Olson serves as the primary Accounting Technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Minnesota. Sylvia puts forth extraordinary effort on a daily basis, placing an emphasis customer satisfaction. Her diplomatic communication skills strengthen internal and external relationships with employees, partners, and other agencies while furthering the mission of NRCS. Sylvia routinely addresses critical vendor payment issues, contract participant questions, and employee reimbursement inquiries, all with a positive attitude and pleasant demeanor. Sylvia acted as the agency liaison with the National Finance Center regarding IRS 1099 questions from contract payment recipients. She took painstaking measures to ensure corrected forms were issued in a timely manner to facilitate prompt and accurate income tax return filing. Sylvia represents the ideal civil servant: selfless, dedicated, and trustworthy.

### Ken Luttner

Area Resource Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Ken has been with NRCS for about 12 years. It is not an easy job servicing 85 Farm Bill wetland issues. Clients were contentious and skeptical of the role of NRCS in wetland issues on their property but Ken always maintained a professional attitude as a Biologist or Area Resources Conservationist. Whenever needed Ken stepped in as acting, ASTC (FO). He provides training for the field staff, conducting GIS, Wetland Vegetation, Toolkit and helping with Remote Sensing/Aerial Photo Interpretation. We have a new Biologist and Ken has taken time to help get her feet squarely on the ground.

Ken has been always available to help with any of the numerous programs, which NRCS offers. Ken is always available to help out with anything, from computer problems to moving office furniture.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



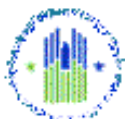
### Wendy Rohleder

Human Resource Staffing Specialist  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Wendy's positive attitude and helpful guidance are true measures of her character.

During her tenure here at Food Safety and Inspection Service, Wendy has developed an excellent rapport with her internal and external customers. She has made significant contributions to our operation with her suggestions and ideas including designing a new staffing tracking form, utilizing alternative recruiting sources, and working on special projects and teams. Quite often, Wendy will pitch in wherever she can. Providing assistance for other team members is welcomed, timely and very effective in meeting our customer's needs.

Wendy is an excellent example of professionalism and performs her responsibilities with effectiveness and quality. Wendy truly exemplifies the model we seek of an outstanding civil servant. With enthusiasm, we nominate Wendy Rohleder as our "Civil Servant of the Year."



### Cindy Behnke

Senior CPD Representative/Public Trust Officer  
Housing and Urban Development

Cindy Behnke, Senior Community Planning and Development (CPD) Representative in the Minneapolis HUD Field Office (and collector of flamingos), is an outstanding civil servant and invaluable asset to the local office and the communities it serves. She is highly respected and regarded, both locally and nationally, within and outside of HUD, for her program knowledge and is always willing to share her expertise and assist fellow employees and clients. While completing all her work assigns, she manages to help other employees meet time sensitive deadlines and complete projects outside her required duties. Cindy serves on national panels to evaluate and review CPD programs. She continually receives outstanding or highly successful performance ratings and was flown to Washington D.C. to receive HUD's Distinguished Service Award. Her easy manner of working with people results in resolving problems and assisting clients develop projects that meet their needs as well as the regulations.



### Said Motamed

Construction Coordinator/Senior Architect  
Housing and Urban Development

Said Motamed completes his 20<sup>th</sup> year with HUD this spring and has brought superior construction management and architectural review skills to generations of projects. As senior architect Said has monitored contract inspectors on over \$500 million in construction over the past 5 years, while improving the quality of third-party project repair estimates and construction drawings and application exhibits' compliance. He has consistently received outstanding performance ratings and spot awards to recognize specific achievements. Management and staff throughout the Hub rely on Said as the ultimate technical source for architectural, engineering and construction problems, and a trusted authority on HUD's best alternatives and Development's or Property Management's most cost-effective recommendations worth considering to resolve real-life, everyday- whether deferred maintenance or new systems' - real estate problems.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

**Anthony Duran**  
Supervisory Investigator  
Food and Drug Administration



Mr. Duran is a Supervisory Investigator who has consistently performed at a high level. He oversees operational aspects of his position with laudable knowledge and skill. He manages employee concerns and issues with finesse. His contributions to the successful, effective and efficient operations of the Investigations Branch have been invaluable. He is a model employee for dedication and professionalism. He is the first to volunteer whenever and wherever needed. He is parallel to none in his willingness to put in the extra effort to see the job done and done well. He is an example for others to emulate by embracing the Agency's mission and keeping consumer protection at the forefront driving everything he does.

**Ginger Foster**  
Maintenance Group Secretary  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



Ginger S. Foster has distinguished herself by providing exemplary administrative support to the 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group. She single-handedly processes orders requests and created a completed orders turn in log to track all orders being turned in for pay eliminating lost orders. She processes all Enlisted Performance Reports (EPR) for the commanders' approval and created an electronic spreadsheet to illustrate the status of all Enlisted Performance Reports'. She requests all DÉCOR 6 products for the Awards and Decorations program recognizing deserving individuals. She developed an electronic file plan that enables the Maintenance Group to track and disseminate vital information throughout the organization. This user-friendly system is easily accessible to all staff members and structured so that all office records remain organized until final disposition. She received formal training to administer the Unit Training Assembly Participation System inputting pay for 280 reserve personnel. She maintains the critical Personnel Information Files for every member in the group ensuring all required information is properly accounted for. Her attention to detail and knowledge of Air Force instructions have made her the go-to person for virtually any administrative question or problem that may arise. Ginger's remarkable energy, poise, and professionalism make her an irreplaceable asset and a pleasure to work with.

**Carol Lupo**  
Wing Performance Planner  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



As the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Performance Planner, she is the premier Air Force Reserve liaison preparing the Air Force Reserve, Minneapolis for all staff assisted visits and inspections preparing our personnel to use their skills to fight the war on terror. Her sole mission is to prepare personnel to safely accomplish mission goals and objectives while being evaluated by higher headquarters. Over the past two years, she has been responsible for our "Excellent" ratings as she is the gatekeeper of the inspections creating schedules, managing training, hosting and logistically planning for staff visits and inspections. Under her leadership, she manages the self-inspection program managing over 17 squadron inspections, maintaining 100% wartime readiness.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **John Scott**

**Fuels Maintenance Mechanic  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**

John displays absolute loyalty to the organization. He never balks at doing tasks that other will not touch. His diversified skills and resourcefulness allows him to provide backup support to three other maintenance specialties. He is extremely resourceful and optimizes the use of all available resources in solving many of the complex problems that he is asked to repair. He is well liked and displays an enterprising personality toward the job and others. He is an important contributor to the success of the BOS and his work always reflects the highest professional standards. As union Steward, he uses common sense in making decisions and solves problems at the lowest level, keeping them from escalating. He supports his community and church by working for their food shelf programs.



### **Robin Major**

**Materials Handler  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**

Robin exceeded all position requirements. Revamped warehouse layout, reducing time to locate and issue items. In charge of the clothing section, he researched and purchased 3000 desert uniforms and 243 pieces of equipment from special vendors. Shared this information with other units, saving time and money. Excellent trainer, plans, schedules, and provides real world training to reservists. His community involvement is commendable, an excellent role model, teaches religious education, promotes "Handicapped Awareness". Cubmaster of Pack 144 advancing 72 boys into Boy Scouts, also a Troop Committee Member. Active member of the Somerset Middle School Autism Board, establishing training for staff. Monitors student progress, making recommendations for improvement with excellent results. Knights of Columbus Honor guard Commander and member of the 934 AW Civilian Welfare Committee.



### **Darci Gjerstad**

**Administrative Contracting Officer  
Defense Contract Management Agency - Twin Cities**

Ms. Darci Gjerstad, an Administrative Contracting Officer with the Defense Contract Management Agency, is a phenomenal leader. In 2006, her team lost several members while the workload increased. Her efforts to redistribute the team's workload allowed her team to continue providing our military customers, and ultimately the warfighters, with outstanding customer service. A hands-on leader, she mentored engineers, contract administrators and Industrial Specialists to ensure customer needs were understood and met by all. She tackled a particularly difficult contracting issue that affected the majority of our contractors, developing and promulgating an overall approach to resolve issues with noncompliance of the contractually required Specialty Metal Clause. She also chaired the highly praised Employee Recognition Committee, ensuring all employees were recognized for significant contributions to the mission.

*Department of Defense*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Debra Schultz**

**Procurement Technician  
Defense Contract Management Agency - Twin Cities**

Ms. Debra Schultz, a Procurement Technician with the Defense Contract Management Agency, exemplifies the commitment of civil servants to the community at large. While her efforts on the job greatly assisted her team in meeting the mission, her efforts in the community are especially noteworthy. In 2006, she was a frequent fixture at the blood bank, donating both blood and platelets. A Lions Club member, she actively assisted visually impaired members of her community. Truly believing that community reaches beyond the borders, for many years she has collected furniture, clothing, toys, building materials, and tools which she annually delivers to impoverished people in Mexico. During her yearly two-week visit, she distributed items and assisted in the construction and repairs to homes of those in need.

### **Todd Held**

**Human Resource Assistant  
Military Entrance Processing Station**



Todd is the primary Files Room Manager, and assignment he executes with flawless precision, including all aspects of MEPS processing. He is the “go to guy” for virtually every unusual or questionable situation, regardless of which section that has an issue. Out of 65 MEPS, his extraordinary performance led to his selection as the USMEPCOM Civilian Employee of the year. Mr. Held’s reputation as a subject matter expert extends far beyond the Minneapolis MEPS. His vast professional knowledge of process, procedure, and MEPS regulations has also made him a resource for the Western Sector and USMEPCOM Staff personnel alike. As such, in addition to his local responsibilities, he also served as a member of Western Sector’s Staff Assistance Visit (SAV) team in 2006.

### **Steven Jacobson**

**Supervisory Equipment Specialist (SES)  
U.S. Army, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command**



Mr. Jacobson is a Supervisory Equipment Specialist (SES) for the 88th Regional Readiness Command. His responsibilities are to supervise and manage the AMSA shops located in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He also accepted responsibility for shops in Illinois. Mr. Jacobson 2006 accomplishments include the following: Improved the overall RRC AMSA efficiency rate. Was an active participant in coordinating the repair of equipment being mobilized or demobilized. As the Warranty Claims and SOUM coordinator he had a direct positive affect on keeping our units maintenance readiness rate at a level that exceeded mobilization standards, Improved his technical knowledge and supervisory ability by receiving additional training. Provided operational support, acted as a Government Purchase Card Approving Official, provided contract support and submitted Time Cards for the AMSA shops.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

### Duane Putz

Equipment Mechanic and Acting, Lockmaster  
Army Corps of Engineers, Hastings, MN

In 2006, Duane Putz provided exceptional service at the Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minnesota. In addition to performing his regular duties as the facility Equipment Mechanic, he served as Acting Lockmaster while the Lockmaster was deployed to Afghanistan. He did this at a time when the site was experiencing staff shortages due to reassignments and long-term illnesses. In addition, a number of major maintenance activities and site improvements were accomplished at Lock and Dam 2 including dewatering of the lock chamber, installation of a security access system and upgrade of the perimeter security fencing. Mr. Putz met these daunting challenges by providing outstanding leadership and resource management while still satisfying his regular technical duties.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

### Patrick Foley

Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District

Pat Foley is an outstanding leader. He combines a high level of technical knowledge with equally high levels of people skills. Pat is recognized nationally throughout the Corps of Engineers as an expert in the field of hydraulic engineering and is currently serving on two high visibility national teams. As a supervisor, he constantly looks for opportunities to develop and recognize his employees and has instilled a culture in which they can excel. His employees are or have been active on local committees as well as in local and national leadership development programs. Since 1999, three of his employees have been competitively selected to participate in formal long-term training programs. Three Corps Civil Servant of the Year recipients since 2002 came from Pat's section.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

### Judy Harris

Lock and Dam Clerk  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District

Judy Harris is an outstanding civil servant who made many contributions to her agency, profession, and community during 2006. For the Corps' St. Paul District Operations Division, she provided exceptional service to Locks and Dams 5A and 6 and the Central Area. Her duties extended well beyond those of an administrative assistant. She is a team player who offers to help everyone. She contributed to the Special Emphasis Program; Judy volunteered to work with the recruitment and student programs. She attended numerous recruitment fairs and assisted with Career Night for Hmong families and Veteran's Day Programs at local schools. She demonstrated outstanding people skills, enjoyed assisting with tours, and prepared Hurricane Katrina travel vouchers and training schedules for Central Area.

Department of Defense



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Department of Defense

### Aaron Patrick Bayer

Hazmat Technician  
133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, MN Air National Guard



Aaron manages 45 accounts and over 2,300 line items. He led the 133rd Airlift Wing through a successful AF HAZMAT audit. He spent countless hours realigning Civil Engineering accounts to meet base HAZMAT procedures. Implemented new programs in the Hazardous Pharmacy including weekly surveillance assistant visits, barcode tracking procedures, and quarterly self inspections by shops to increase accountability. Performs additional duties including Load Team Chief, Building Manager, Alternate Controlled Area Monitor and Emergency Management Representative. Deployed to Wyoming in preparation for Air Crews flying in Southwest Asia and pending deployment to Afghanistan for AEF. Participated in base Honor Guard and retirement ceremonies. Teacher for St. Paul School District Alternate Learning Center after school program for struggling youth in the elementary grades. Super performer with infectiously positive attitude.

### Christopher Kelly

Phase Team Lead  
Minnesota Army NG Aviation Support Facility



Christopher Kelly is AASF-Minnesota's nominee for Civil Servant of the Year. Based on his deep church commitments at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Troop Leader with Cub Scout Pack 105, Boy Scout Troop 288, and Girl Scout Troop 1007; West St. Paul League Soccer Coach; and Henry Sibley Wrestling Boosters member, his civic pride and community involvement inspires others. He serves his nation in the Minnesota Army National Guard as First Sergeant of HHC, 2-147th Aviation Battalion (air assault), serving as the mentor and leader to over 100 troops. His technical expertise as a Phase Team Lead, increasing unit readiness with over fifty phases with 7 recent Blackhawk helicopter phases for a unit's pending deployment in support of the War on Terror.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Kevin Silbernack

Electronics Repairman  
Maneuver Area Training and Equipment, MN National Guard

He is extremely proficient in his duties. Silbernack is responsible for 330 radios. Installs radios into various vehicle types from wheeled vehicles to M1A1 Tanks. Insures that all radio maintenance is complete and routinely trouble shoots communications issues as vehicles are being issued to customers. His additional duties are also completed meticulously, such as the hazardous waste handling in our facility. He routinely assists units with their hazardous waste dropped off at our facility. Insuring that they meet all codes and comply with Hazmat regulations. He is involved in the community in the following areas. Cooks at the legion fish fry, on the legion board, Scoutmaster, involved in his church, coaches Little League, 5th and 6th grade Assistant Basketball Coach; chaperones school field trips.



### Lance Johnson

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Expeditor  
148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, MN Air National Guard, Duluth

MSgt Lance Johnson provides exceptional support to his community through his work on the Lakewood Volunteer Fire Department and assistance to the Lakewood School. In his duties on the volunteer fire department MSgt Johnson has undertaken the task to become a Fire Fighter and medical First Responder. His answers to calls 24/7 to save lives and/or fight fires. Within his instruction as a First Responder, he provides first aid and CPR instruction to members of his community. He also gives classes to local people in home day care providers so they can obtain their St. Louis County license. He took this first aid training skill on a level higher and taught over 250 members of the 148th Fighter Wing Self Aid/Buddy Care prior to their deployment to Iraq.



### Perry Jones

Hydrologist  
U.S. Geological Survey

Perry Jones has successfully managed as many as five hydrologic investigations for the USGS Minnesota Water Science Center. These complex hydrologic studies have involved both local and national researchers. He has written many research proposals and generated new programs for the Minnesota Water Science Center. He has planned and led research and coordinated conferences on amphibian deformities. Perry has presented papers and results of his research investigations at local and national conferences and speaks to many local community groups. Perry routinely participates in outreach activities including Government on Display, assisting in field hydrology classes at the University of Minnesota, and speaking to science students at local high schools regarding careers in science. Perry is always ready with a smile, has a positive attitude, has time to listen, and will offer assistance to those in need, whether it is a professional or personal matter.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

**Michael Hoff**  
Invasive Species Coordinator  
Fish and Wildlife Service



Mike Hoff, is our lead for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program within Region 3 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He works cooperatively with our many partners at the state, regional and national levels to address this important resource issue which is detrimental to the survival of native species. He was instrumental in framing the document developed by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, to address priorities to manage invasive species in the Great Lakes. He also heads an outreach program to the community via a Holiday Caring Tree Initiative each year. Through his efforts Regional Office personnel donate gifts to children identified by the Hennepin County Child Protection Services. His efforts assure a happy holiday season for hundreds of children in the metro area.

**Pat Percy**  
Information Technology Specialist  
Fish and Wildlife Service



Pat Percy is an information technology professional within Region 3 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has distinguished herself because of her abilities in both the managerial and technical aspects of information technology management and her willingness to take on new challenges. Pat administers the Region 3 regional office network, providing high availability, performance and security to over 230 employees. She also manages the Region 3 Help Desk and as a Contracting Officer's Representative, oversees the work of IT contractors. Pat was the co-lead on a major network platform migration. Her IT project management skills, ability to work collaboratively with regional and national colleagues and attention to detail and follow-through resulted in the success of the project, which served as the pilot for the national migration project.

**Thomas Castonguay**  
Trust Forester for the Red Lake Indian Tribe  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, MN Agency



Tom has worked on the Red Lake Indian Reservation as BIA Trust Forester since May 2004. He brings diverse expertise from private industry, the US Forest Service and the US Army. Tom's dedication to leadership and professionalism greatly benefit the Tribe and BIA by:

- Becoming expert in the complex regulations and fiduciary trust responsibilities found only in Indian Forestry
  - Becoming intimately familiar with Red Lake Forestry/Fire management documents & BIA forestry programs in: timber sales, forest development, fuels, inventory & fire preparedness
  - Being instrumental in helping develop creative and innovative forest inventory techniques
- Nurturing a cooperative relationship with the Red Lake forestry and natural resource staff that fits very well within the unique and rich cultural traditions of the Red Lake Nation



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Byron Paulson

Senior Meteorologist  
National Weather Service WFO Chanhassen

Byron Paulson provided outstanding support for the Incident Meteorologist program and NOAA's NWS mission this past year. Byron spent many nights away from his primary office supporting the fire fighting efforts for state and federal forestry partners while furthering the NWS mission and services. His forecasting expertise was outstanding as well as his communication skills. His effective communication and forecasting led to improved decision making processes for those charged with where the fire fighting resources should be concentrated as well as the safety of those fighting the fires. Byron also led the efforts to educate the local office in terms of what our partners and customers need from us meteorologically speaking in order for us to deliver information that is effective for fire fighting efforts.



### Andy Miller

Information Technology Specialist  
National Weather Service- NRCFC

Andy Miller provided tremendous leadership in furthering hydrometeorology knowledge and outreach for NOAA's NWS. His tireless efforts to build and or improve hands-on interactive hydrologic models and displays, easily demonstrate what we, the NWS, provide to our customers. Much of Andy's efforts were on his own time for a cause he truly believes in, giving something back to the community. His passion in outreach continues to motivate other NOAA employees and generates tremendous hydrologic interest. Attendance and interest at our outreach events has been admirable. These events included the Government on Display at the Mall of America, the NOAA Chanhassen Open House, and many school demonstrations and science fairs. Andy does this as well as his routine duties with enthusiasm and commitment, setting an outstanding example!



### David Kopacz

Highway Program Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration

As the primary FHWA contact in all aspects of the highway safety program Dave is dedication to saving lives. His enthusiastic efforts in promoting highway safety helped Minnesota attain the lowest number of highway fatalities in over 60 years. His passion for highway safety is contagious and his commitment to providing the tools necessary to achieve reductions in all accidents types on our highways exemplifies how through public service one person **can** make a difference. Dave was instrumental in the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan which is a proactive approach to reducing highway related fatalities. He has also worked to promote the "Toward Zero Deaths" initiative including participation in conducting the annual conference which drew over 500 attendees from throughout Minnesota.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Ronald Glaub**

**Data Evaluation Program Manager  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Beginning his Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) career in 1983, Ron has performed in the above and beyond category as a contributor and volunteer. As a Mediator for the FAA and the Federal Executive Board's (FEB) Shared Neutrals Program, he mediated cases for the FAA, VA, and Social Security Administration. As a member of the FAA's AERO Committee, he served as Secretary and Chair, participated in E-Mentorship, and Washburn High School mentor programs. Ron chairs the Aviation Career Education Camps (ACE) planning committee and Executive Committee. He has served as camp counselor, and spent many personal hours recruiting campers and assisting with camp. Ron has represented NWA-CMO on the Habitat for Humanity project and Metropolitan Airport Commission committees. He serves as Richfield Charter Commission and Richfield Human Rights Commission Chair and volunteers with various pet rescue groups.

### **Pat Hennen**

**Personnel Assistant  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Pat Hennen has been instrumental in the transition from FAA Academy student to FAA employee for 30 individuals this year. She presented them their benefits, assisted with enrollments, and ensured each has access to automated employee systems. Her efforts positively demonstrate an employer who cares. With the extensive rapport she has created, Ms. Hennen collaborates daily with the flight surgeons and local aviation medical examiners offices. Thereby, she ensures medical requirements and conditions meet strict standards and are followed by 325 plus employees. Her efforts are critical for the continual safety of the flying public. Pat's involvements in the Human Relations Committee's initiatives perpetuate continual recognition and camaraderie. Her efforts result in hundreds of Minneapolis Center hats and clothing items being proudly worn and displayed.

### **Paul Jarmulowicz**

**Air Traffic Control Specialist  
Minneapolis ARTCC  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Paul Jarmulowicz has made a positive impact on young people's lives for many years. Dedicating time to volunteer service, mentoring and promoting careers in the aviation industry is routine. He has spent countless hours mentoring high school aviation students, primarily through the FAA's Adopt-A-School Program at Minneapolis Washburn High School (WHS). At WHS he volunteered about 10 hours per month sharing his aviation experience and participating in various career fairs. He also served as the Program's Coordinator. At Minneapolis Air Traffic Control Tower, Paul voluntarily conducts facility tours and briefings for various education groups and serves as a trainer for new controllers. On the home front, some of Paul's contributions include coaching tee-ball and hockey, directing Ukrainian Youth Camp activities, chaperoning field trips, and assisting in his son's classroom. We commend Paul for his many contributions and the countless hours he gives to our youth.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Scott Shelerud**

**Traffic Management Coordinator/Air Traffic  
Control Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Mr. Shelerud is a dedicated employee who strives to positively market the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and enthusiastically promote employment and education opportunities to current and prospective employees. Scott spent numerous off-duty hours preparing a program to aid new air traffic controllers in understanding their individual impact on the national airspace system. He also worked tirelessly with committees to provide and staff a professional exhibit for Government on Display at the Mall of America. Mr. Shelerud did this at minimum cost to the agency. Mr. Shelerud has been in Federal service for 19 years with the FAA and the past 9 of those with System Operations working in traffic flow management. His son, John, recently started as an Air Traffic Controller in Grand Forks, ND.



### **Stacy Harth**

**Airway Transportation System Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Stacy epitomizes the definition of a Public Servant. She not only does an outstanding job as a technician assigned to the Communications unit at the Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center, but consistently takes on additional projects with zest. She maintains excellent technical proficiency with an ever changing environment. She sets the bar for her volunteer activities coupled with the Federal Government as well as other outside entities. Some of her volunteer work includes NASTEP representative for our District, member of Aviation Education Recruitment Opportunities (AERO) committee, Mentor for Aviation students at Washburn High School where she instructed Aircraft restoration, ground school, and general aviation classes, Government on Display Exhibit team (GODE). With rotating shift schedule the norm she still find the time to coach her daughter's traveling soccer team. Recognition through receipt of the award is a small token of her service.



### **Doreen West**

**Air Traffic Systems Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Ms. West is the go-to person for agency policies and procedures. She digs into all of the complex problems that comes to her attention and resolves them. She works effectively with other lines of business to discover what is required by the ever changing directives and orders. The availability/reliability of all of her facilities continuously meet or exceed national standards. In addition to her own work load, Doreen always steps forward to support and complete the responsibilities of two retired employees.

*Department of Transportation*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Gary Lang**

**Accounts Receivable Technician  
VA Debt Management Center**



Mr. Lang is an Accounts Receivable Technician in our Correspondence Division. His duties cover a wide spectrum of responsibilities and he continually adapts to changing demands and priorities. Mr. Lang's in-depth knowledge of Fraud, Bankruptcy, and Death Cases makes him the key liaison for questions asked by the Office of Inspector General and the Office of Regional Counsel. He fields a large number of incoming calls and they all know him on a first name basis. Mr. Lang maintains a journal of the point of contacts for the Office of Regional Counsel as well as the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Regional Office Centers. Our entire staff relies on these addresses and telephone numbers. Integrity, accuracy, efficiency, strong work ethics and excellent customer service are just a few attributes that best characterize Mr. Lang. His personality and quick wit makes him one of the departments "Shining Stars." On behalf of the VA Debt Management Center, we are honored to have Mr. Lang as a colleague and our Civil Servant of the Year!

### **Cheryl Seanoa**

**Loan Specialist  
VA St. Paul Regional Office**



# VBA

Cheryl is a Loan Specialist for the VA St. Paul Regional Loan Center who without hesitation has taken on additional tasks at the request of Central Office. Cheryl was selected as a member of the National Broadcast Team and is responsible for the development of the training broadcast as well as starring in broadcasts to both internal and external audiences. Cheryl has been able to do this with great success while at the same time excelling in her duties assisting veterans who are experiencing financial difficulties. Cheryl unselfishly gives of her time by volunteering at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. Without Cheryl's dedication, we could not achieve our mission in providing benefits and services to the veterans and their families.

### **Kim Swenson**

**Loan Specialist Team Leader  
VA St. Paul Regional Office**



# VBA

Kim Swenson is a dedicated employee who exhibits exceptional leadership skills and a high level of professionalism. As Team Leader for a staff of eight employees that administer benefits for the VA Loan Guaranty program she has provided the motivation and guidance needed for the team to show continuous improvement in meeting their goals. Kim also demonstrated her strong leadership skills as coordinator for the special project of assisting VA's Home Loan Eligibility Center issue Certificates of Eligibility (COE). This 36-week project was implemented to extinguish a huge backlog, which was having an impact on the success of our program. Through her organization and guidance the COE team successfully issued 12,851 certificates, allowing numerous veterans the opportunity to purchase the home of their dreams.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **John Koziol**

**Mail and File Clerk  
Internal Revenue Service**

John is the first point of contact for all visitors to the offices of Counsel. His respectful attitude and pleasant demeanor demonstrate an understanding of the goals of public service. John is a willing volunteer and helps with many projects whenever needed. John coordinates the Combined Federal Campaigns and Savings Bond Drives. John is very active with Project Joy, giving his time, gifts and talent to aid needy families. John's professionalism, his dedicated attention to his normal duties, the extra work he voluntarily takes on, and his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in supporting the IRS mission and outreach efforts in the community make him an excellent candidate for the title Civil Servant of the Year 2007.



### **Stacy Bosch**

**Internal Revenue Agent  
Internal Revenue Service**

Stacy is a dedicated employee who has a heart of gold. She is energetic in the community, church, and daughters' activities. Stacy has worked in outreaches for Project Joy and CFC, but is most admired for her "adopting" military platoons. She is continually organizing and sending them care packages. They contain all kinds of items. When a co-worker's son was deployed to Iraq, Stacy just adopted his platoon too. Stacy has adopted a family, where she provided presents to the family and an exciting Christmas meal. Stacy is active in children's schools by serving on: yearbook committee; swim club board; coordinating concessions stands and fund-raisers; and the PTA. She is a "pied piper" of sorts, in that her good deeds inspire others to get involved.



### **Mary Hallauer**

**Examination Technician, Office Automation  
Internal Revenue Service**

Mary Hallauer is the hardest working, most conscientious employee I have worked with. Mary makes numerous contacts with other IRS personnel and is always courteous, professional, and effective. She is equally as good a citizen outside of work. Mary has donated blood *for over 20 years!* Mary has now donated *11 gallons* of blood. Additionally, Mary has been a church organist for over 20 years. Finally, Mary has, over the last two years, been the primary care-giver for her two parents. Mary is an excellent Federal Civil Servant both in her performance and her working relationship with others. She is also an excellent public servant in her blood donations, her service to her church and her family. I highly recommend Mary for the Civil Servant of the Year Award.

*Department of the Treasury*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Eric Estabrook**

**Non-VA Care Clinical Coordinator  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



Eric has been the nurse coordinator in Fee Basis whose main duty is to give medical advice in determining a veteran's eligibility for non VA medical care this past year. With help he devised several databases for tracking the movement and payment of claims. Also, this database gives various components of the VA access to data for compiling reports to the Veteran Integrated Service Network and Central VA office. This has helped keep track of incoming bills, payments, and denials for the Fee Basis clerks. He is always pleasant to work with and encourages the employees to do their best.

### **Diane Ekwochi**

**Registered Nurse  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



Ms. Ekwochi promotes the image of the Nursing profession at work and within the community. She follows up on her clients after they have been discharged. Works diligently on education materials for the patients and staff. Participates in local community functions and volunteers assisting in health care teaching within the area she resides. Ms. Ekwochi contributes to other "Well" programs. She is a Girl Scout Leader for Troop 1140 and the Website designer for Junior Girl Scout Troop 1140, the South St. Paul Service Unit, and the South St. Paul Kaposia Days. Diane is a volunteer at Lincoln Center elementary School, Provides Alumni Scholarships at College of St. Scholastica, and a Recipient of the Exceptional People, Exceptional Care Award.

### **Lisa Highley**

**General and Plastic Surgery Nurse Coordinator  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



I have the pleasure to work with my colleague Lisa Highley, RN who is an outstanding nurse coordinator, hard worker, professional and goes beyond the duty to care for our veterans with cancer. Needless, those patients have significant medical, emotional and social needs. All of which Lisa has provided with nothing but the best care. The Department of Surgery at The Minneapolis VAMC is very privileged to have Lisa as one of our essential colleagues.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Amy Archer**

**Primary Care Social Worker  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

During the past year, she has been co-field instructor for a social work intern. She continues to serve on the hospital Ethics Committee and recently graduated from the VA LEAD Program. During that time she assisted in writing a section of the Carey Award. Amy was recently selected to serve as the assignment-at-large representative for a one year term on the hospital coordinating council. Amy demonstrates the professional attributes to accomplish her work in an exemplary fashion. Her excellent customer service is evident as she develops positive working relationships with patients, their families and the staff at VAMC.



### **Cindy Hintz**

**Social Worker  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Cindy is a social worker that gives 110%. Rising above & beyond her tour of duty to meet the increasing demands of our returning active duty patients & veterans that require inpatient care. She is highly competent in compassionately helping patients/families coping with the reality of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) & the impact of their lives. She is a consummate professional that always advocates for the patients yet holds strong to the clinical care that is needed most for the long term future of patients. She links constantly with agencies all over the US & sets an example of the high quality care we provide at this VAMC. It's an honor to watch her work & I set aspirations to personally grow from the talent she has as a social worker.



### **Dr. Melissa Polusny**

**Staff Psychologist  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Dr. Polusny's dedication to VA's mission has been instrumental in cultivating a vital partnership between the VA and the MN Army National Guard (MN ARNG). She has served as a subject matter expert on post-deployment behavioral health issues at the Governor's Yellow Ribbon Summit and provided outreach education to military personnel, their families, and the community. She has served as a volunteer Reintegration Academy Trainer and was an invited speaker at the MN ARNG State Surgeons Conference. Given her expertise on OEF/OIF issues, she was appointed by the Minnesota Psychological Association to serve as representative to the Governor's Yellow Ribbon Task Force. Finally, she was awarded a Department of Defense grant to prospectively study risk and resiliency in National Guard soldiers deployed to OIF.

*Department of Veterans Affairs*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Barbara Winge**

**Medical Librarian  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



Barbara Winge, Medical Librarian, tracks down difficult to find information for users in the Medical Center and clinics. She assists physicians searching for information to treat patients, nurses working on advanced degrees, students using library resources for papers and projects, and administrative staff looking for data for process improvements. Barbara does selection for the extensive book and audiovisual collections in the medical library and assists in the management of journals. She regularly does one-on-one training and troubleshooting sessions on medical databases. During the past year, Barb cheerfully took on several new tasks to fill in for a vacant full-time position. An avid reader, Barbara facilitates book discussion groups at her sons' schools to promote reading among elementary and junior high students.

### **Sandra Killebrew**

**Human Resources Assistant  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



Sandy provided outstanding customer support throughout 2006. She produced over 50 retirement estimates for employees near retirement. Her compassionate handling of benefits for three employee's next of kin who was remarkable. She was a pivotal member of the Human Resources reorganization effort, her expertise was critical to development of our new team structure and physical layout of customer service areas. Yet, her biggest accomplishment came right at the end of 2006. She single-handedly was responsible for processing over 2,000 performance evaluations and performance awards which included updating three separate databases. She completed this project within timelines and with very few errors. This feat is commendable because she maintained her normal performance with her other duties. She is one of Minnesota's finest employees, federal or otherwise!

### **Audie Emond**

**Medical Support Assistant  
Minneapolis Medical Center**



Audie Emond is an excellent co-worker and servant to our veterans. His noteworthy contributions are evident when he goes out of his way to help make this Intensive Care Unit run more smoothly and effectively. He is extremely helpful in this acute, high stress setting. Audie's superior performance in anticipating our needs as nurses/doctors helps us provide superior care to our veterans. He is helpful to everyone in need. He is a very friendly person and can brighten up the unit even on the most dismal days. Audie also handles difficult situations regarding family members and staff with confidence and ease.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Margaret Swenson**

**Manager, Fisher House  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Margaret (Maggie) Swenson has been the Manager of the Fisher House for the last two years. In this capacity, she has provided a safe and comforting environment for patients undergoing cancer therapy and family members of severely ill patients in intensive care after surgery. But most significantly, Maggie has worked with family members of patients in our Polytrauma Center; families who are a long ways from home dealing with the significant struggles of rehabilitation. Maggie manages a warm and compassionate “home away from home” that has become a true refuge for these guests. We are seeking construction of a second Fisher House on the premises. This is a tribute to the excellent relationship Maggie has maintained with the Fisher Foundation, veterans organizations, staff and community.



### **Richard Kieser**

**Nursing Instructor  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Richard has been an exemplary bed maker during the past year. He was an integral part of the Advanced Clinical Access 2 collaborative team. His participation on the Turn Around Terrapin team vaulted the them to first place in the competition. Richard always has a positive attitude and infectious can do spirit. He is a skilled professional that values patients and employees contributions to the mission of taking care of our nations veterans. We know we can always count on his dedication to take on the tough job and get it done right the first time. He is a valuable asset to this medical center and it's ability to delivery the best health care.



### **David Lawler**

**Registered Occupational Therapist  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

David Lawler, Occupational Therapist at MVAMC servers on the CVA treatment team and he has sole responsibility for the Driver Rehabilitation Program. Primary program goals are evaluating the ability to drive safely, provide rehabilitation services, and make recommendations regarding driving. David has significantly improved the quality of these services. His educational efforts within the Medical Center helped identify appropriate candidates for the Driver Rehab Program, clarified roles between Primary Care Provider, patient and family, Rehabilitation, and the state Department of Motor Vehicles. His collaboration with community peers improved effective use of assessment and training equipment and decreased adverse side effects for patients. David's work contributes to the safety of our veterans and the community. Excellence in patient service is his top priority.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Lawrence DiDomenico**

**Port Safety and Security Contingency Planner  
DHS - U.S. Coast Guard - Marine Safety Unit Duluth**



Throughout 2006, Larry DiDomenico was an integral part of Western Lake Superior's oil and hazardous materials response community. He personally maintained a comprehensive and functional Area Contingency Plan (ACP) by engaging over 75 Federal, State and Local agencies within Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. Further, Mr. DiDomenico was instrumental in bringing together the Homeland Security Emergency Management staff to develop a regional Incident Command System (ICS) resource and training infrastructure. Through this network, and the Coast Guard, he personally provided ICS training to more than 200 response professionals. Additionally, he worked closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to develop a mutual understanding of response constructs, priorities, and methodologies. His dedication to team-oriented incident management solidified relationships and philosophies in advance of multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency responses.

### **Brandon Lehigh**

**Customs and Border Protection Officer  
DHS - Customs & Border Protection**



Mr. Lehigh consistently performed his duties for Customs and Border Protection in an outstanding and professional manner throughout 2006. He eagerly learned many complicated elements of the mission of the Agency, sought out additional duties and responsibilities and excelled at all duties assigned to him. He has been involved in many sensitive law enforcement actions this year and has handled each individual professionally, with dignity and respect. Though a newer employee, he has demonstrated his commitment and ability by seeking out knowledge of complex law cases and applying that knowledge to his daily duties. He successfully completes many difficult cases with far less assistance than similarly experienced officers. His demonstrated abilities have earned him involvement in the successful training of newly hired CBP employees. Mr. Lehigh deserves FEB recognition as a 2007 Civil Servant of the Year.

### **Shawn Carrick**

**Supervisory Customs and Border Protection Officer  
DHS - Customs & Border Protection**



Mr. Carrick performed his duties at an agency, like many, undergoing major changes. Customs and Border Protection is a regulatory agency created with personnel from the former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This agency brought together personnel with a wide variety of abilities and prior experience and created one with a critical and expanded mission. Mr. Carrick energetically and tirelessly, performed the major task of training these diverse talents in new areas of responsibility to create a more consistently knowledgeable cadre of personnel whose number one mission is to protect the people of the United States by preventing the entry of people and goods which would do harm the people of the United States. Through promotion, he rose to the position of Supervisory Officer where he continues to develop and teach officers in the completion of their mission. Mr. Carrick deserves recognition for the devotion to duty he has shown.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Greg Bauer**

**Human Resources Assistant  
DHS Bureau of Customs and Border Protection**

During 2006, Greg was instrumental in his team processing over 13,300 applicants for positions within Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a result of Greg's tremendous efforts the Minneapolis Hiring Center (MHC) was able to enter on duty nearly 2,800 new officers in support of the Homeland Security effort. His exceptional leadership skills are on display on a daily basis and many of his co-workers look to him for his immeasurable experience and outstanding communication skills. Greg never gives less than his absolute best in helping to ensure that the MHC accomplishes its very important mission.



### **Anna Schwink**

**Human Resources Specialist  
DHS Bureau of Customs and Border Protection**

Anna's work with the DHS Minneapolis Hiring Center has been exceptional. Anna is currently a Human Resources Specialist in the Medical Review Unit. We consistently have a huge volume of medical examinations in process. On a weekly basis, we process hundreds of new medical examinations, respond to numerous inquiries and manage applicant case issues to final resolution. Anna has dealt with operational problems, and continues to manage the priorities of our unit with all of her other assignments. Her dedication and hard work contribute directly to the Hiring Center's goal accomplishment, and the placement of thousands of new agents at the borders, ports of entry, and at locations throughout the country.



### **Thomas Connors**

**Assistant Federal Security Director, Screening  
DHS - Transportation Security Administration**

Mr. Connors has oversight of screening operations for nine airports in the state of Minnesota and has become a true leader within our organization. He consistently pursues improvements to the screening process and provides a model work environment for all Transportation Security Officers and FSD staff members. His oversight includes a large variety of specialized programs and projects to include STEA, ADASP, RASM, BDO, TDC, Inline Baggage Screening and Transportation Security Officer recertification, among other federally mandated initiatives. Mr. Connors' management team considers him a Role Model of Excellence. He has the innate ability to communicate effectively and with a positive outlook no matter what the circumstances may be at the time. In the ever changing world of transportation security, Tom keeps focused on the mission and leads his team from the front. In addition to his duties as the AFSD-S, he has oversight of our Operations team which includes continued development and management of our Operations Center, training group, and scheduling team. Thomas Connors wears many hats within our organization and successfully accomplishes all tasks while generating support from his subordinates.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

### Becky Roering

**Assistant Federal Security Director, Inspections  
DHS - Transportation Security Administration**



Ms. Roering has been an integral part of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the State of Minnesota for the year 2006. Ms. Roering stepped into the position of Acting Deputy Federal Security role during a very important transitional time in the organization. In addition to the role of Acting Deputy Federal Security Director, Ms. Roering continued her role as the Assistant Federal Security Director Inspections (AFSDI) while continuing to challenge her employees to perform above the national standard. Ms. Roering represented the entire TSA regulatory workforce by participating in the National Level Compliance Advisory Group (CAG) as a co-chair. The participation in the CAG along with her other duties demonstrates Ms. Roering's importance and dedication to the organization.

### Arthur Sepeta

**Administrative Officer  
DHS - Transportation Security Administration**



Art has masterfully guided our organization across a wide range of complex programs, directly impacting TSA-MSP's ability to successfully meet and sustain aviation security operations in Minnesota. His high degree of professionalism has brought enhanced results and process improvements to numerous critical functions. Recruiting, hiring, benefits, awards, employee relations, worker compensation, retention, budgeting, forecasting and logistics are managed with skillful oversight and astute direction. His contributions have had a direct impact on TSA-MSP's reputation as one of the most well managed large airports in the United States. As a highly valued member of the TSA-MSP staff, Art embodies the leadership and professionalism that is critical to successful partnership with coworkers, customers and all stakeholders. His sustained superior performance embodies the essence of organizational effectiveness.

### Corey Walton

**Wage Hour Investigator  
DOL - Wage and Hour Division**



Mr. Walton has successfully investigated violations of several federal labor laws, primarily the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) during the last 10 years. As a senior GS-12 investigator, he conducts and completes investigations independently. Mr. Walton's investigations professionally completed; he substantiates and documents violations to successfully close without litigation. WHD investigator Corey Walton successfully completed a two-year investigation of a national employer headquartered in Minnesota. The investigation included over 45 different locations nationwide, nearly 800 employees who didn't receive their full federal labor rights and a back wage liability over \$650,000. Mr. Walton interviewed employees at the locations and supervised company representatives during the investigation. The company will make nationwide changes to their pay practices and sign an Agreement to comply with the FLSA.

### Denise Favors

**Loan Officer  
Small Business Administration**



Denise Favors is a dedicated leader in both the SBA Minnesota District Office and our community. As the director of our Faith and Community based initiative, Denise works closely with a host of community and faith-based organizations. She developed a program to promote small business development in the minority community which she presented on a regular basis at the St. Paul Urban League. In addition, hundreds of people have benefited from her weekly lending seminars at the Business Planning Center in St. Paul. Her resourcefulness in creating partnerships with Faith and Community based organizations have netted a substantial increase in lending to many communities. On top of all this, Denise continues to process a portfolio of commercial loans and to assist in lender training programs.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Raymond Hayes**

**Claims Representative  
Social Security Administration  
Edina, MN**

We are please to select Raymond Hayes as the recipient from the Edina Social Security Office. Mr. Hayes consistently serves the public in a professional and respectful manner; he provides the best of service to all claimants regardless of their circumstances. In addition he is the consummate “team player” assisting the office in a variety of ways. Mr. Hayes voluntarily reaches out to his peers and the public to provide the very best of public service. The Edina staff is proud and pleased to have Raymond Hayes represent us as the Civil Servant of the Year



### **Timothy Curtis**

**Teleservice Representative  
Social Security Administration  
Twin Cities Teleservice Center, MN**

In addition to performing his regular duties as a Social Security Teleservice Representative in an excellent manner, Tim Curtis has stepped forward to serve as a mentor for several employees new to the office. His program knowledge and strong people skills were instrumental in helping newly hired staff members gain confidence and become productive employees. Tim’s professionalism, excellent job performance, and teamwork approach are real assets to the Twin Cities TSC and the Social Security Administration.



### **Jennifer Anderson**

**Assistant Manager  
Social Security Administration  
Rochester, MN**

Jennifer Anderson is the Assistant Manager in the Rochester, Minnesota office. Jennifer is a tireless public servant, who aids the district in meeting all public service measures. She delivers prompt, courteous and professional service. She monitors administrative actions. Jennifer also aids in completing workloads. She completes her public service roles very efficiently. Her community work speaks for itself. As a first responder in Goodrich, Minnesota, she gives countless hours of her time so that citizens have quality emergency care. She volunteers for the Red Cross and responds to disasters such as tornados, floods, and fires. She is a girl scout leader and is shaping the minds of our leaders of tomorrow. Professionally and personally, Jennifer is truly an inspiration to coworkers and community leaders alike.



### **Rick Rentschler**

**Claims Representative  
Social Security Administration  
St. Cloud, MN**

Rick is a claims representative in a disability unit. He interviews clients who file for disability benefits and processes the claims to completion. His work has been exemplary. The claims are processed accurately and in accordance with existing policies and laws. He has a well-earned reputation of knowledge and honesty and is recognized as a team player. On a daily basis, he touches people at a crucial time in their lives. He recognizes the dignity of individuals and treats each person with respect and compassion. He truly represents the attributes of an outstanding civil servant and our office is proud to claim him as an employee.

*Independent Federal Agencies*





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Vicki Foster**

**Assistant District Manager  
Social Security Administration  
St. Paul, MN**



Vicki Foster has been an integral part of the St. Paul SSA office for over 25 years. Promoted to increasingly more responsible positions, she now serves as the Assistant District Manager. Vicki possesses an outstanding ability to balance the demands of a large field office, ensuring thousands of workload actions are processed accurately and timely each month. As a result of her tireless effort, customers within the service area, including a large community of limited English and non-English speaking customers, receive prompt, courteous and professional service. With a background in automation, training, mentoring, and line supervision, Ms. Foster has incredible job knowledge. She is a true team leader and dedicated public servant who has achieved sustained superior performance throughout a distinguished 34 year career.

### **Julie Allen**

**Social Insurance Specialist  
Social Security Administration  
Minneapolis, MN**



Julie Allen is an outstanding performer as a Claims Representative. She is helpful, empathetic, patient and courteous to the public and her co-workers. She can be relied upon to successfully complete work assignments with high quality and timeliness. Julie is very technical and provides assistance to others through her expertise on policy, program and systems. She also possesses the rare ability to change focus from one area of expertise to another, serving in multiple capacities. Her contributions to the unit/office have resulted in meeting and exceeding the goal of serving the public timely and accurately. Julie is committed to providing World Class Service and warrants recognition as Civil Servant of the Year.

### **Mustafe Musse**

**Technical Expert  
Social Security Administration  
Brooklyn Center, MN**



Mustafe has been a service representative in the Brooklyn Center SSA office since September 2002. His enthusiasm, positive attitude, dependability and flexibility make him a wonderful role model for his co-workers. Mustafe is a “team player” whose work ethic, along with his sense of humor, serves him well in his interactions with the public and his co-workers. His positive attitude is infectious and sets an example for the entire office.

### **Bret Lieberherr**

**Technical Expert  
Legal Assistant  
SSA/ Office of Disability Adjudication and Review**



As a Legal Assistant in the Minneapolis Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Mr. Lieberherr significantly contributes to productivity and quality efforts of the office. He analyzes files, prepares hearing development and addresses workflow efforts as the Administrative Law Judges prepare their dockets for disability hearings. He is particularly adept at learning and demonstrating new technology designed to assist staff in moving to a paperless environment. Recently, Bret has been detailed to a Lead Legal Assistant position where he continues to use initiative to assist staff in learning and adjusting to changing workflow. Social Security recipients truly benefit from his efforts.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Laurel Kratzke**

**Claims Representative  
Social Security Administration  
Mankato, MN**

Laurel has provided sustained superior performance for our clients in southern Minnesota. Laurel has performed her duties as a Claims Representative with a high degree of integrity and produced a high volume of work. In addition to her work Laurel has been a positive influence in our office with her attitude and approach to high volumes of work. Laurel has been a highly motivated volunteer within our community. She serves on the local board of the United Way and is a volunteer on the board of Immanuel St. Joseph Hospital. She has participated and donated her time in helping build homes with Habitat for Humanity.



### **Bill Smith**

**Vehicle Maintenance Mechanic  
Postal Service**

Bill and his wife Lynn went with a group of 16 people to Bogota, Colombia in February to help at an orphanage/school run by a couple from Wisconsin. Children's Vision is a place where abandoned or neglected, or even dying children can go to be loved and cared for. Many of these children were taken out of garbage cans, removed from drug addicted mothers or prostitutes at birth at the hospital or just found on the street. Some parents, knowing they can't care for them, bring them to the orphanage themselves. Bill's contribution was to help dig a hole, 25' x 25', by hand – in clay no less, to house a water tank for the orphanage.



### **Chrys Faucher**

**Diversity Development Specialist  
Postal Service**

Chrys has taken a Leadership Role in the Postal Service providing guidance that has impacted change throughout our organization. She serves as a guiding force on our EAS Advisory Committee, co-chair for the Training, Communication, Recognition, Recruitment & Development, and Safety Committees. All of these committees focus on implementing positive changes in the USPS culture. She analyzed data indicating the current status of our employee's perceptions of their workplace. Due to her leadership positive impacts can be seen in our communications and work place environment. She also worked on creating videos highlighting how our employee's "make a difference" outside of the Postal Service. She has passion for all tasks assigned and focuses on creating a culture that is positive and rewarding for all employees.



### **James Allen**

**Mail Processor  
Postal Service**

James Allen, APWU clerk craft director and mail processor, Minneapolis plant lost his daughter, Janaya Nicole Allen, to a senseless act of violence in January 2006. Mr. Allen managed to turn overwhelming grief and sorrow into action. Mr Allen has become active in Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, legislation for the protection of teens and women. Active in awareness through education on violence against women. Support for Deborah's Place, a womens shelter. Turns every opportunity into a teaching experience for violence in general.

*Independent Federal Agencies*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Postal Service

### Robert Binder

Rural Carrier  
Postal Service



Bob has made a significant positive impact on the lives of the youth in his community. He has given selflessly of his time as an AWANA Children's leader since 1967. In addition to teaching youth ministry, he spends his time meeting one on one mentoring the youth, and providing them transportation when needed. Bob is also a Vacation Bible School Teacher, Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, and Chairman of the Board for the Solway Chapel Church. Bob has been a member of the Mississippi Headwaters Blood Bank since 1987 and recently received a 3 gallon certificate. Bob was a member of the Solway Rural Volunteer Fire Department from 1980 through 2006, including a 3 year term as Fire Chief.

### Greg Haas

Safety Specialist  
Postal Service



Greg Haas is a great asset to the Northland District Safety Office. He's served the USPS since 1981 and helps make the USPS a safer place for our employees to work everyday. Greg's interaction with employees and management; his work ethics and job dedication; all generate respect from customers and peers. He's an energetic leader in the Boy Scouts; Knights Of Columbus; homeowner's association; and his community of North Branch. He is a Eucharistic Minister; participating enthusiastically in numerous community fund raising events. In the Grass Fire Volunteer Department; he and fellow community volunteers extinguish or divert grass fires from homes and businesses. Greg is also a devoted married father of three.

### John Marr

Electronics Technician  
Postal Service



The USPS is fortunate to have John Marr as an employee. He is a top-level Electronics Technician and part of the National Technical Support Network. John provides telephone support to any site in need of assistance with troubleshooting mail processing equipment malfunctions. Mr. Marr also travels to sites to provide expertise with complex machine issues. John has become a subject matter expert with RBCS which has greatly automated the delivery sequence process for letter mail. John has also been instrumental to the integration of PARS which minimizes mail forwarding delays, reduces costs, and increases productivity. John's technical skills, pleasant personality, can-do attitude and high level of dedication prove him to be a civil servant worthy of special recognition.

### Lucy Burger

Supervisor Distribution Operations  
Postal Service



For the past several years Lucy has volunteered to be the coordinator for the American Red Cross Blood Drive and the Federal Employees Combined Federal Campaign. Lucy worked diligently on all three shifts soliciting volunteers to give blood and to donate their money to charities both National and locally. Her strong communication skills and devotion to these causes reflected positively in the end result. Each year Lucy met her goals or set records in the amount of food that was given and the amount of money contributed to notable causes by postal employees. Additionally, Lucy has financially assisted people in her community. This assistance has allowed these people to regain their self-respect, making it possible for them to redeem their confidence and become productive citizens.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Jane Kelley

Operations Support Specialist  
Postal Service

For the past several years Jane has been an activist for the homeless and needy in the St. Paul area. Jane has devoted much of her time to the Sharing Corner food shelf of St. Paul. Jane has organized many fund raisers for this charity. Raising thousands of dollars in cash and collected hundreds of pounds of clothing, all of which assisted countless people in need. Jane also organized two Habitat for Humanity projects. Jane solicited assistance from friends, co-workers and employees to assist with the building portion of these projects. Jane organized fund raisers to help fund these endeavors. Jane met with local businesses and gained donations of food, drinks and tools to ensure the volunteers had everything they needed while building these homes.



### Stephanie Askin

Data Collection Technician  
Postal Service

Stephanie Askin has worked for the Postal Service for 28 years, most of that time at the Mpls. /St. Paul Bulk Mail Center with details to Personnel and Manager of Statistical Programs in Minneapolis. Stephanie has done volunteer work for the Eagan Athletic and Eastview Athletic Associations. Stephanie is currently doing volunteer work for the White Bear Area Historical Society creating and maintaining their website. Stephanie is a SME (Subject Matter Expert) for Statistical Programs and assists in the quarterly training for all Data Collection Technicians and Ad hoc data Collection Technicians. Stephanie has helped countless employees at the BMC with payroll problems and has a wonderful attitude.



### Kenneth R. Kislenger

Mail Handler/Fork Lift Driver  
Postal Service

We (a group from inbound docks – BMC) nominate Kenneth Kislenger for Civil Servant of the year. Ken has dedicated himself to the Cub/Boy Scouts for the last couple of years. It started with helping his son Ian getting started in scouting, to taking over his sons' Cub Scout Pack in White Bear Lake. Ken has taken many hours of his own time including using his annual leave to make sure he is there for the boys. Ken is very focused on making sure that the boys work hard and are honest to get their badges. His scouts are often ahead of the other scouts who are working for the same badges.



### Susan A. Krumm

Clerk Stenographer  
Postal Service

Susan Krumm has worked for the Postal Service for 20 years. Her strong administrative skills and eye for detail have provided direction and assistance to countless Maintenance employees with travel and training. Susan was on the BMC Diversity Committee for 2.5 years, recording secretary for 1.5 years. She has been the Display Coordinator and worked on the BMC Survey, Food Drive and Book Drive. Susan volunteers with the Women's Prison Book Project (Minneapolis) for the last 4.5 years. Susan solicits selects and packages used books sent free to U.S. women in prison. Susan volunteers with the Baby Safety Program at Regions Hospital Birth Center in St. Paul. Susan trains new volunteers and presents a video on "Shaken Baby Syndrome" and baby safety for new parents.

Postal Service



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Judy Jasper

Postmaster  
Postal Service



Judy Jasper has performed an outstanding job in her role as Postmaster of Leroy, serving her customers daily and treating her employees with dignity and respect. She is flexible as her job continually changes, new reports added or converted to electronic. She contributes to the community by serving in the Leroy Commercial Club, organizing the basket social with her family. Her husband was the auctioneer until his death. This year her son took over that duty. She contributes fantastic baskets herself and encourages others. She also works with the Friends of Lake Louise State Park, fostering stewardship of the environment. She helps plan events such as the moonlight hiking and cross country ski nights.

### Gail Hanninen

Transition Coordinator  
Postal Service, Northland District



Ms. Hanninen is the Transition Coordinator for the Northland District's transition of functions to the National Human Resources Service Center. Gail works in an environment of constant pressure to manage the migration of employee retirements, job bidding, and other personnel functions previously performed by permanent staff in the district office. Her positive attitude and leadership in effecting considerable change while enduring daily setbacks in the transition processes demonstrates the extraordinary asset she is to the Postal Service.

### John Zieba

Manager, Maintenance Operations  
Postal Service  
Minneapolis P&DC



The Minneapolis Processing and Distribution Center is fortunate to have John Zieba as an employee. He believes in Maintenance Excellence and lives it daily! John provides leadership to his department and enables his staff to effectively complete their work requests in a timely and professional manner. His responsibility is support of the Minneapolis P&DC physical plant and its support equipment. In addition to his job and family, John is a blood donor, to date he has his 8-gallon pin! John has willingly volunteered his time for many years to the Robbinsdale Community Youth Sports programs as its coordinator. John gives leadership and an attitude of dedicated professional excellence to the Postal Service and his community. John is a civil servant worthy of special recognition!

### Steve Campos

Letter Carrier  
Postal Service



Steve Campos has excelled at PEDC, & other details besides being a Letter Carrier. Continues his sixth year as FEB Diversity council member and co-chair. Key player in FEB Diversity Day. Lead various FEB drives. He partnered with schools sending thousands of holiday cards to deployed Minnesotans. Co-coordinate Veterans recognition day at USPS. Worked USPS and ANG booths at State Fair. Whether planning Holiday festivities for Guard, making Tacos for hockey team, supporting JROTC military balls, Region Rep for 25 HRA's in nine States, delivering school supplies, participant in Mexican Independence parade, Ditch cleanups, planning Hockey Tournaments or working with community leaders, Steve's positive impact is worthy of this award.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

*We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following people and organizations without whose help this year's awards program would not have been possible*

### This Year's Principal Sponsor



## The Twin Cities' Best Kept Secret.

**After 80 years of serving the metro, it's time you got to know us -  
Incredible rates, minimal fees and service exceeding the highest expectations.**

Free Checking | Cash-Back VISA® Check Card | Vehicle Loans | Mortgages/Refinancing  
VISA® Credit Cards | Online Banking | Home Equity Loans | Investments  
Free Online Bill Payment | 30 Second Online Loan Approval

**Discover what your friends and neighbors have enjoyed for years.**

**US  
FEDERAL**  
CREDIT UNION

#### 12 Twin Cities locations:

Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville,  
Fridley, Lakeville, Minneapolis, Minneapolis Campus,  
Minneapolis Skyway, Northfield, Shakopee, St. Paul – Coming Fall 2007

(952) 736-5000 | 1 800 345-2733 | [www.usfed.org](http://www.usfed.org)

**Congratulations  
AWARD  
FINALISTS!**

Online Bill Payment is free with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 monthly transactions.  
Bill pay transactions exceeding 12 will be subject to a \$.55 per-bill charge. Deposits federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

*We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following people and organizations without whose help this year's awards program would not have been possible*

### Sponsors:

 <b>The Health Plan for Federal Employees</b>	<b>For More Information: <a href="http://www.geha.com">www.geha.com</a></b>
 <b>BlueCross BlueShield</b> Federal Employee Program	<b>For More Information: <a href="http://www.fepblue.org">www.fepblue.org</a></b>

### Civil Servant of the Year

**Award Plaques:** John Sorenson, Skylane Bowling

**Color Guard:** 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve

**Award Program Location:** Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota



**Master of Ceremonies:** Robyn Thorson, Chair, Federal Executive Board

**Keynote Speaker:** Max Stier, President and CEO, Partnership for Public Service, Washington, D.C.

**Program and  
Poster Design:** Federal Executive Board Staff

**Printing:** St. Paul Veterans Affairs Regional Office - Jeffrey Alger, Regional Director  
Print Shop Supervisor, John Heinen

## Acknowledgments

	<h1>Receipt</h1> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> Federal Civil Servant Luncheon</b> <b>May 4, 2007</b> <b>Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, MN</b> <b>\$25.00</b></p>	
---	--	---

### Federal Executive Board of Minnesota



**Robyn Thorson, Chair**  
**Raymond W. Morris, Executive Director**  
**Tiffany L. Mulvihill, Assistant Director**



Suite 510, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55111-4008  
Phone (612) 713-7200 Fax (612) 713-7203

*e-mail: [Ray\\_Morris@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Ray_Morris@ios.doi.gov) or [Tiffany\\_Mulvihill@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Tiffany_Mulvihill@ios.doi.gov)*  
**On The Web at [www.feb.gov](http://www.feb.gov)**

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual

Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program

# Awards



**2007**

