



*Delaware Award for
Excellence and
Commitment in State Service*

May 14, 2013





**135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE BILL NO. 604**

**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE BY
PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAMS.**

- WHEREAS, in the name of service, State employees have made great contributions to every aspect of life in the State of Delaware serving in the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government; and
- WHEREAS, the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of State government depends in large measure on its employees who provide such a broad range of services that few citizens remain unaffected by their work; and
- WHEREAS, the importance of public services rendered by State employees and the exemplary manner of their performance are too often forgotten and ignored; and
- WHEREAS, that the Statewide Labor-Management Committee has recommended that State take proactive steps to recognize dedication, talents and contributions made by State Employees at all levels of government; and
- WHEREAS, the Recognition Umbrella Committee has developed procedures and guidelines for statewide and agency level employee recognition initiatives,

NOW THEREFORE: BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:
Section 1. Amend Chapter 59, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by adding thereto a new Section 5950 to read as follows:

§5950. Employee Recognition.

- (a) It shall be part of the function of State agencies to conduct employee recognition programs for Merit System employees and employees in positions that are assigned to comparable Merit System classes or pay grades. All such Employee recognition programs shall be approved by the State Personnel Director prior to implementation.
- (b) The first full week in May shall be designated Public Service Recognition Week. Employee recognition Programs shall not, however, be confined to this week.

This bill was passed by the House on June 26, 1990, by the Senate on September 25, 1990 and signed into law by Governor Michael N. Castle on October 15, 1990.

Awards Recognition Ceremony

May 14, 2013

<i>Remarks</i>	Ann S. Visalli Director Office of Management and Budget Matthew Denn Lieutenant Governor
<i>Keynote Address</i>	Jack A. Markell Governor
<i>Awards</i>	Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service ~ Recognition of Nominees ~ Recognition of Recipients
<i>Presentation of Awards</i>	Amy Bonner Deputy Director Human Resource Management



Making a Difference for Delaware

The thousands of dedicated individuals who make up the state's workforce are state government's most important and valuable resource.

The effectiveness, efficiency and quality of state government depends on the people who provide such a broad range of services that few citizens remain unaffected by their work.

The dedication, talents and contributions of those individuals at all levels of state government are *Making a Difference for Delaware* everyday.

With pride and their commitment to public service, state employees strive for a standard of excellence which in turn enables the citizens to take pride in their state government.

The importance of public service rendered by state employees and the exemplary manner of their performance deserves recognition.

Making a Difference for Delaware is a campaign to foster the acknowledgement of the efforts and accomplishments of those in state service.

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Whereas, millions of public employees at the federal, state, county and city levels dedicate their careers to public service by contributing to professional industries, such as healthcare, education, crime prevention, fire protection, conservation, and national defense; and

Whereas, in the First State, public servants are the unsung heroes, who perform the work that keeps our nation strong; and

Whereas, many of these public servants have taken an oath, swearing to uphold their commitment to improve the quality of life for others; and

Whereas, their devotion and commitment to public service often continues through volunteer activities outside of official business hours and into retirement years; and

Whereas, many public servants, such as military personnel, police officers, firefighters and healthcare professionals, put their lives at risk on a daily basis to serve their neighbor; and

Whereas, the importance of public services provided by public employees and volunteers and the exemplary manner of their performance are too often forgotten or ignored; and

Whereas, designating a week to acknowledge these employees provides the opportunity to honor our public servants and remind the public of their accomplishments and the importance of public service.

**Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,**
do hereby declare May 5th – 11th, 2013

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

in the State of Delaware and urge all Delawareans to recognize the achievements and contributions of public servants at all levels of government.



Jack Markell

Jack A. Markell, Governor

Matthew Denn

Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor

13-0235
Number

Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service

The Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service is an annual statewide award given to employees who exemplify the highest standards of excellence and commitment in state service. Five awards are given annually to individuals or groups of up to five employees that have been nominated by their department.

With the Cabinet Secretary's endorsement, each department submits nominations for the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service. A nine-member Selection Committee reviews the nominations and selects five recipients.

The Governor presents the awards to recipients at the annual Recognition Awards Ceremony. This event is held during Public Service Recognition Week in the first full week of May. Nominees and recipients for the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service are presented with certificates and Tributes from the General Assembly.

Congratulations to all nominees and recipients of the 2013 Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

Efrem B. Morales
Department of Transportation
Division of Motor Vehicles



Efrem, a Motor Vehicle Technician with DeIDOT's DMV, was preparing to call a customer to his desk, when a customer who had just left him staggered and fell to the floor, losing consciousness. Without hesitation, Efrem leaped over his counter to assist her, and directed a coworker to call 911. When she regained consciousness, he let her know what was happening and continued to stay with her and assess her condition until medical help arrived. While she had been at his desk earlier, she told him she had recently had a pacemaker implanted. He shared this information with the paramedics, making sure that she received prompt and accurate medical assistance.

Gerald Nagyiski, Jr.
Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Solutions



While other families were home together celebrating the Fourth of July, Jerry, an EPS Technician with DelDOT, was working the Rehoboth Beach fireworks event. He started his work at 4 p.m., and at 1 a.m., while traffic control equipment was being cleared, Jerry noticed a disabled vehicle with out-of-state plates and a small child in the car. He helped the driver call for assistance, but calls for tow trucks were unsuccessful. He suggested that they move the vehicle over to a nearby lot and that she wait until the morning to arrange for a tow and a rental vehicle. It was 3:15 a.m. when he finally arrived home, and he had a meeting in Fenwick Island at 7:00 a.m. that morning. On his way to the meeting he found the driver and a friend working on the car. Jerry provided a needed funnel and in 20 minutes, the vehicle was running and Jerry went to his meeting!

Emily Robinson
Department of Correction
Northern New Castle Probation & Parole



Emily is a Probation and Parole Officer for the Mental Health Court Unit (MHC) of the Department of Corrections, who went above and beyond her duties to work with an offender experiencing psychotic episodes. The offender had not been taking his medications, and left the state while warrants were issued for his arrest. Knowing his unstable condition, she worked tirelessly to locate him and then began devising a plan to return him to Delaware where she could get him entered into the MHC without having him incarcerated. This involved out of the ordinary coordination with his family and mental health providers from out of state. She went even further and secured housing to facilitate the offender's return to Delaware once he was stabilized.

John Schneider
Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Division of Watershed Stewardship



John has been a State employee for more than 20 years, and currently leads a team that works at DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship. Testimony from his staff assert that it was his leadership and vision that allowed them to excel in several areas, including: the Watershed Approach to Toxics Assessment and Restoration, a new interagency initiative that takes a watershed approach and applies it to toxics; the Recreational Water Program, whose work resulted in Delaware being rated as # 1 for recreational and beach water quality in the nation, and Dewey and Rehoboth Beaches being rated as 5-star beaches; the Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Efforts, which assists water quality managers to accurately estimate nutrient and sediment loads that enter the Chesapeake Bay from the Nanticoke River; and Watershed Restoration, where a total of 2,700 ft. of stream channel was restored.

Debra Stiles and Keith Wolken
Department of Correction
Special Operations, James T. Vaughn Correctional Center



While on Court & Transportation duty, Officers Debra Stiles and Keith Wolken witnessed a severe automobile accident. A vehicle ran a red light and collided with a panel van, which came to rest on the side of the road. The van caught on fire and the driver was still trapped inside. Debra immediately notified 911 while Keith ran to the aid of the trapped driver. After calling for assistance, Debra went to assist Keith as he pulled the driver from the burning vehicle. While Keith stayed with the driver, Debra diverted traffic away from the accident scene. Their combined efforts prevented the driver from being seriously injured or possibly killed. Their control of the scene until emergency personnel arrived kept the public out of harm's way and prevented what could have been a disastrous situation.

2012 Nominees for the Delaware Award for

Employee Name	Category of Nomination
Robert Huff	Innovative Idea
David Bamford	Exceptional Accomplishment
Deborah Stiles and Keith Wolken*	Heroic act
Emily Robinson*	Exceptional Accomplishment
Heather Morton	Exceptional Accomplishment
Cheryl Couvillion	Exceptional Accomplishment
Carolyn Mailey	Exceptional Accomplishment
Debra Crosson	Exceptional Accomplishment
Keisha Daniels	Innovative Idea
Krys Johnson	Exceptional Accomplishment
Takeya Perez	Exceptional Accomplishment
Linda Nemes	Exceptional Accomplishment
John Schneider*	Exceptional Accomplishment
Rebecca "Becky" Lovin	Exceptional Accomplishment
Connie Green	Outstanding Perseverance
Eric J. Ralph	Outstanding Perseverance
Raymond Brown	Exceptional Accomplishment
S. Michelle Hoffman	Exceptional Accomplishment & Innovative Idea
Susan B. Neidig	Exceptional Accomplishment
Lisa Wragg	Outstanding Perseverance
Efrem B. Morales*	Heroic Act
Gerald Nagyiski, Jr.*	Outstanding Perseverance

** Denotes award recipient*

Excellence and Commitment in State Service

Department Name

Agriculture

Correction

Correction

Correction

Courts

Finance

Health and Social Services

Insurance

Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Office of Management and Budget

Public Defender

Safety and Homeland Security

Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

State

Technology

Transportation

Transportation

Award Selection Committee

The committee reviews all nominations and convenes to select five recipients that are recommended to the Governor to receive the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

Bernice Whaley	Delaware Economic Development Office
Debra Allen	Senate Staff
Andria Bennett	House of Representatives Staff
Brenda Lakeman	Office of Management and Budget
Michael A. Begatto	Statewide Labor-Management Committee
Francis "Burt" Lecates	Department of Transportation
Misty Dill	Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families
Tim Li	Office of Management and Budget
Todd Smith	Del-One Federal Credit Union

Thanks to the committee for carefully reviewing each nomination and coming together to select the award recipients.

Thank You

Special thanks for assistance with event planning: Ann Visalli, Bert Scoglietti, Brenda Lakeman, Amy Bonner, Jessica Eisenbrey, Debra Gerardi, Debra Allen, Andria Bennett, Damian DeStefano, Bernard Brady, Barbara McCleary, Jamie Summerfield, Larry Trunfio, James Terry, DESU Catering, and Delaware State University.

Special thanks to Jeff Stone from DEDO, and Chris Portante from the Department of State, for their photography services.

Special thanks to the agency recognition coordinators who, in addition to their regular duties, make time to plan events and come up with unique ways to recognize the employees in their respective agencies.

Agency recognition coordinators are:

Anthony Albence, NCC Elections; Barbara Bennett, Treasury; Barbara Bigelow, DNREC; Reggie Brown and Lori Watts, DHSS; Debbie Carey, Agriculture; Mary Cooke, Education; Jennifer Dickinson, DELJIS; Patricia Diienzo and Sandra Rossi, Courts; Beverly Ennis, Glynis Moore, Sally Wojcieszyn, DEDO; Glenn Garrett and Dawn Warman, State; Susan Givens, Fire Marshall; Deborah Grier, Com. of Elections; Johnette Graff, Board of Parole; Diane Haase, Justice; Robin Harding, DSHS; Pamela Harrison, State Police; Kimberly Judy and Kathleen Davies, Auditor; Roberta Jones, Insurance; Robbie Weakland and Janice Jordan, DelDOT; Trudy Mifflin, OMB; Bonnie Miller, Labor; Christine Murabito, Fire School; Tamara Napier, Public Defender; Jacqui Thornton, Criminal Justice Council; Kim Thornton, DTI; Joseph Smack DSCYF; Wanda Spiering, Housing; Britta Strop and Roy Lawler, Corrections; and Valerie Watson and Mary Jane Donnelly, Finance.

An outline map of the state of Delaware is centered on the page. The map is a simple black line drawing showing the state's irregular shape. Overlaid on the map is the text "Making a Difference for Delaware" in a black, cursive font. The words are arranged vertically: "Making a" at the top, "Difference" in the middle, "for" below a small star, and "Delaware" at the bottom.

*Making a
Difference
★
for
Delaware*