



The National Cooperative Observer

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Spring-Summer 2023

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Honored Institution: 125 Years at New Brunswick Station



From left: Lee Robertson, NWS Mount Holly OPL, David Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist and Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University, Thomas Juliano, Rutgers University Student, Kennedy Scott, Rutgers University Student, and Anthony J. Broccoli, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University

NWS Mount Holly Observing Program Leader (OPL) Lee Robertson presented an Honored Institution Award for 125 years of observations to the New Brunswick station, located at Rutgers University.

Rutgers University has been reporting daily maximum/minimum temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, snow depth, and soil temperatures, among other observations, in addition to any additional severe weather observations to the National Weather Service since January 1893. The current observations are co-located with the New Brunswick station of

New Jersey Weather Network, run by the state climatology office.

Technological Leaps in Climate Data

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information is the world's largest active archive of weather and climate data. The Centers develop national and global data sets that have been used to maximize the resource provided by our climate and minimize the risks of climate variability and weather extremes. The Centers also produces publications that describe the climate of the United States and acts as the nation's "Scorekeeper" regarding the trends and anomalies of weather and climate.

Since the 1800s, NOAA and its predecessor agencies have been managing our nation's climate data—from weather observations such as temperature, precipitation, and wind speed to satellite imagery to ice core records that reveal the climate of Earth's distant past. These data have been used in a variety of applications including agriculture, construction, energy, forestry, health, recreation and tourism, transportation, and water resources management, among other areas. The nation's climate data are critical to our modern lifestyles.

During the winter of 1995, the nation's climate archive located in Asheville, North Carolina, moved down the street—from the historic Grove Arcade Building to the new Federal Climate Complex. More than half a million magnetic tapes, 200 million manuscript records, and millions of microfilm and microfiche were relocated, along with the people, computers, and equipment that provided support needed

Technological Leaps in Climate Data

to manage all of these data.

The new building had state-of-the-art environmental controls designed for the archival of climate data. The old building was designed in the 1920s for an entirely different purpose: to be one of the nation's first indoor shopping malls.

More than a decade has passed since this historic relocation, and many of the same dedicated and talented employees are still managing NOAA's climate data legacy

today at the National Centers for Environmental Information. But how the work was done in 1995 and how it is done today are vastly different. From the time the data are received, processed, and archived, to when the data are sent out the door for access and analysis, technological advances have paved the way for more efficient and effective ways of managing the nation's climate data archive.



The Federal Climate Complex in Asheville, North Carolina, home of the National Climatic Data Center and the nation's Climate Archive from 1995 to present.

From Paper Forms and Magnetic Tape...

In 1995, almost all climate data were received either on magnetic tape or on paper forms. Most weather observation networks recorded their reports manually on paper forms. The forms were mailed to Asheville at the end of the month and then keypunched and verified with a quality-control process. It took a minimum of two months after the observations were taken to produce the final climate products. The delays were months longer for some networks.

NOAA's remotely sensed data from satellites and radars were downloaded onto magnetic tapes and sent by U.S. mail to Asheville. The satellite data were mailed each day and usually made it to the archive within a week. Data from NOAA's NEXRAD weather radars, however, had more variable delivery. The data were not mailed by the station until the storage tape was full, which could sometimes take a month or more. For a few legacy stations which had not been modernized to NEXRAD instrumentation, the radar scopes were still being recorded as they were in the 1950s—as photographic images on 35mm film and mailed months after the data were observed. Needless to say, these various delays in receiving NOAA's climate data resulted in similar holdups in getting the data into a form where it could be accessed and used.

...to Electronic Ingest Via the Internet

Today, almost all of NOAA's climate data are received online via the Internet. Data from a few of NOAA's observing networks still arrive on paper forms and still take months to get in the archive. Progress is being made in automating these networks to provide real-time data transmission. However, for most networks, data that once took months to place in the archive are now being received and processed within minutes of the actual observation time. This allows data users to make more timely decisions that can have very far-reaching economic or social impacts.

John Campanius Holm Awards



Lee Robertson, NWS Mount Holly OPL (left), and Ronny Lee, observer (right)

NWS Mount Holly Observing Program Leader (OPL) Lee Robertson presented the 2022 Holm Award and 35 year Length of Service Award to Ronny Lee of Lee Turkey Farm. Ronny's dad, the late Richard Lee of Lee Turkey Farm, began taking observations 50 years ago, and Ronny started taking observations along with his father 35 years ago. It is believed the Lee family has never missed an observation in 50 years, all while maintaining the family turkey and produce farm. Congratulations Ronny!

Mr. John McNamee, a rancher near Antelope, OR, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for his dedication and exceptional service.



John McNamee (left) NWS Pendleton MIC Mike Vescio (center) NWS Western Region Deputy Director Jeff Zimmerman (right). Also present was John's wife Ellen and their youngest grandson.

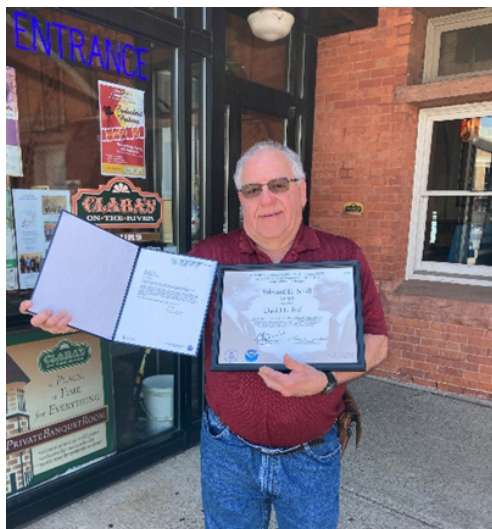
Dick Hagemeyer Awards



John Ey began his volunteer weather duties on July 1, 1977, when he became superintendent of the Florida Water Conservancy District, located in the mountainous, rural area around Lemon Reservoir Dam northeast of Durango, CO. John Ey receives his Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of weather observing.

Marvin Seyer received his Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service from Aberdeen MIC Jim Scarlett. Marvin has been a loyal observer from Ipswich, SD since 1975. Present for the award was Ryan Vipond, NWS Meteorologist, Marvin Seyer, observer, Jim Scarlett, NWS MIC, and Scott Doering, NWS Meteorologist.

Edward H. Stoll Awards



David Ball of Battle Creek, MI was presented with the Edward H. Stoll award for 50 years of service as an observer. David became a COOP observer while still a boy. Within the first year of taking observations, he was called to testify regarding his official reports due to a legal case in the area. As David grew up, he provided onsite weather support to the Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival in Battle Creek. He also helped coordinate the Skywarn Spotter training for Calhoun County. David and his wife, Wendy, have kept a meticulous record of daily observations and ensure that someone is able to take observations if they are gone. Recently, David's observations were included in a threaded dataset for the Battle Creek area to extend the period of record for the city. Congratulations, David!

Photo by NWS Grand Rapids OPL Brandon Hoving

Thomas Jefferson Awards



Douglas Butts (left), Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service in Blacksburg and Julian A. Kesterson (right)

NWS Blacksburg is proud to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Julian Kesterson, who recently earned the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award for maintaining a flawless, unbroken string of Cooperative weather observations for 55+ years dating back to September 1967. Mr. Kesterson has a deep devotion to weather and climate and has acquired several weather instruments at his station, many of which he's purchased on his own over the years. And though many of them are decades old, the equipment is so well-maintained that they are in just as good shape today as they were when first installed. Not only does Mr. Kesterson record observations each day, but he meticulously analyzes his data for changes in the local climate of his area. Posted on the walls of his home-office are several hand-drawn charts depicting annual average temperature trends over the past several decades. Mr. Kesterson is always happy to discuss different articles and studies he's read concerning weather and climate and expresses his concern for how climate change may affect future generations. Most-importantly, Mr. Kesterson along with his wife, Lucille, have always been great friends to those at NWS Blacksburg. Each has always shown a warm and inviting nature, making visits to the Kesterson's home for annual inspections - always a very special event. NWS Blacksburg extends our congratulations and our deepest gratitude to Mr. Julian Kesterson for his many decades of exceptional service in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson Awards



Jim Scarlett, NWS MIC (left), Rick Knutson, observer (center), and Diane Nutson, observer (right)

Diane and Rick Knutson, longtime observers from Summit, SD, were presented with a Thomas Jefferson Award in recognition of their 40 years of faithful and unwavering weather reports from the northeast corner of South Dakota. The Knutsons have delivered their daily reports from a location that sees some of the toughest and most challenging weather conditions year-round within NWS Aberdeen's forecast area.

Both Diane and Rick have been active in their community for a long time. Diane began working at the Summit Post Office in 1974 and was appointed Postmaster in 1994. She has been retired since 2008. She currently helps with the Farrell Auction Service in Milbank, SD. Diane spent 18 years as the Chairman of the Summit Lutefisk Supper from 1974-1992. She was the Director of Summit's Park & Rec department

and the organizer of the Summit Easter Egg Hunt from 1985-1992. In 1999, the town of Summit held "Diane Knutson Day". She has been a member of the Coteau Master Gardeners and the GR-RO Master Gardeners of Grant and Roberts Counties since 2011. In 2014, Diane became a member of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society and President of the Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners of Watertown, SD.

Rick was a member of the Summit Volunteer Fire Department from 1972-2000. He organized the Summit Pheasant restoration in the 1970s and was also an organizer and promoter of the new Fire Hall and City office building in the 1980s. In 2014, Rick was selected as the Chairman of the Summit Township board. From 1982 to the present, the Knutsons have been observing weather for the NWS from their hobby farm located a mile west of Summit. Rick's uncle provided the service 24 years prior.

In 1992, the Knutsons were the Coordinators and Designers of the playground installed in Summit's City Park. In 1999, both were presented with "Community Volunteer" awards from the Summit VFW Auxiliary. In 2006, they organized and put on a benefit pancake breakfast, auction and raffle for a friend with cancer, serving over 500 people and were able to make a sizable donation toward the medical and travel expenses. The Knutsons received the John Campanius Holm Award in 2007. We at the NWS office in Aberdeen are honored and privileged to be involved in recognizing Diane and Rick Knutson for their outstanding efforts and we look forward to many more years of watching the northeast South Dakota weather alongside them.

100 Year Honored Institution Awards



From left: Joe Cochran and Jason Hall, US Army Corps of Engineers, Thomas Johnstone, Meteorologist-In-Charge at NWS Wilmington, OH, and Ashley Novak, Meteorologist at NWS Wilmington, OH. Picture by James Gibson, Observing Program Leader at NWS Wilmington, OH

The US Army Corps of Engineers Chilo Meldahl Locks and Dam has been providing weather observations to the NWS for over 100 years. Thank you, Chilo Meldahl Locks and Dam, for your dedication and service!

100 and 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



Dispatch Supervisor Jeanne Hall (left) and John Kyle (right)

Heritage Site in 1978. The Park is one of the premier archeological sites in the world and includes nearly 5,000 known archeological sites dating back to A.D. 550. Daily weather observations taken by Mesa Verde staff began August 1, 1922 and continue to this day. The observations are key in not only establishing a climatological record for the area, but giving insight as to why the historic cliff dwellers may have left the area so long ago. The observations play a critical role in the fire weather program, which is important in an area where fires have impacted the landscape numerous times in the recent past. The staff at Mesa Verde National Park do a great job preserving this spectacular ancient culture and taking daily weather observations. Thanks for everything you do, and congratulations on your Honored Institution Award!

About 1,400 years ago, a group of people living in the Four Corners region chose Mesa Verde for their home. For more than 700 years, they lived and flourished there, building elaborate stone communities in the sheltered alcoves of the canyon walls. Then, in the late A.D. 1200s, in the span of a generation or two, they left their homes and moved away, and some historians site the abandonment on a 23 year drought. Mesa Verde National Park was designated a National Park on June 29, 1906 and then designated a World



Pictured from left: Ashley Novak, Meteorologist at NWS Wilmington, OH, Vanessa Bishop, Delaware Lake, Randy Linstedt, Delaware Lake, and Brandon Peloquin, WCM at NWS Wilmington, OH. Photo by OPL James Gibson

The US Army Corps of Engineers at Delaware Lake have been providing weather observations for 75 years. Thank you for your dedication and service!



The Freeport Waste Water Plant in northwest IL was presented with an Honored Institution Award for 75 years of service. Plant director Aaron Pennington accepted the award on behalf of the station. The staff have provided daily temperature, precipitation, and snowfall observations since June 1st, 1941.

75 and 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



Michelle Margraf, NWS OPL (left) and Brian Jorgenson, observer (right)

Thank you to our colleagues at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lac Qui Parle office near Watson, MN for providing daily weather observations for the National Weather Service as part of the COOP network for over 75 years. We were grateful for the opportunity to present them with an Honored Institution Award for partnering with us since 1947, and we look forward to continuing the partnership for years to come!

The Water Treatment Plant in Chelsea, MI was presented with an Honored Institution Award for 50 years as a Cooperative Weather Observing location. The plant started taking observations back in 1971, and its staff has continued to dedicate their time to taking quality observations. The station reports daily temperatures and precipitation, including snowfall. Congratulations to the Chelsea Water Treatment Plant!



Harry Policht (left), Jason Freeman (center), and Kurt Kopf (right)

The City of Boardman Oregon received an Honored Institution Award for 50 years. Accepting the award was Kevin Kennedy.



From left, NWS Pendleton MIC Mike Vescio, Juan Cambero, Kevin Kennedy, Luis Campos, NWS Western Region Deputy Director Jeff Zimmerman



Paige Marten, NWS Meteorologist (left), Michelle Margraf, NWS Observing Program Leader (center), and Gary Newton, observer (right)

Thank you to the Village of Baldwin Wastewater Treatment Facility staff for partnering with the National Weather Service as a Cooperative Observer for over a half century to record daily weather observations for the climate record. Gary Newton, who has taken weather observations at the wastewater treatment plant for 35 years was presented with a 50 Year Honored Institution Award by Meteorologist Paige Marten and Observing Program Leader Michelle Margraf from the National Weather Service office in the Twin Cities. Observations began at the facility on March 1, 1971.

50 Year Honored Institution Awards



Sandra Karlovich (left) and Jim Ailes (right)

The Deland Water Treatment Facility was presented with a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for five decades of continuous cooperative observations. NWS Melbourne is grateful for the dedication of the facility's staff in ensuring quality observations.



Tom Thompson (left) and Eli Lobbestael (right)

The Water Treatment Plant in Manchester, MI, was presented with an Honored Institution Award for 50 years as a Cooperative Weather Observing location. The plant started taking observations back in 1971, and its staff has continued to dedicate their time to taking quality observations. The station reports daily temperatures and precipitation, including snowfall.



Thompson Research Farm staff/observers: Quin Walpole, Ryan Mayer, Rick Randolph, Steve McKay, Ethan Tilebein

The staff at Cornell University's Thompson Research Farm in Freeville, NY received the 50 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Binghamton MIC David Nicosia and OPL Joanne LaBounty. The 260-acre Homer C. Thompson Vegetable Research Farm is located 10 miles from the Cornell campus and is a primary location for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' historically important vegetable research. The farm is managed by Cornell AES as a site for interdisciplinary research aimed at optimizing vegetable production systems for the Northeast, and it is certified organic!

25 Year Honored Institution Awards



Gary Hinkle, representing the crew of the City of Ozark Water Treatment Plant, received the 25 year Honored Institution Award from Thomas Olsen, Observation Program Leader, NWS Springfield, MO. Some of the volunteers include Greg Douglas, Jason Jameson, and others who take daily rainfall and temperature readings as part of the NWS Cooperative Observer volunteers. The Water Treatment plant uses the rainfall totals to determine how their plant will operate, especially during significant 24-hour rainfall events. Thank you, City of Ozark Water Treatment Plant, for your outstanding service to your community and the National Weather Service.



Brandon Peloquin NWS Wilmington, OH WCM (left), Ashley Novak Meteorologist Wilmington, OH (center), and observer Ben Gelber WCMH-TV (right)

Ben Gelber and Columbus WCMH-TV have been providing weather information for the past 25 years. Thank you for your dedication and service to the cooperative weather observer program!



JD Gardner, observer (left), Jeremy Hoffman, observer (right)

JD Garder and Jeremy Hoffman accept a 25 year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the City of Walterboro Water Treatment Facility in Walterboro, SC for their dedication and service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program. The Walterboro site began recording data May 1st, 1903. They are a big part of the reason the Walterboro 1 SW site is so successful, with over 120 years of records!



Jim Tjaden, Waste Water Manager for the City of Monticello IA accepted the 25 year Institution Award from NWS Meteorologist Tim Gross. The city has taken precipitation and snowfall observations since July 1997. The readings have been used by the river forecast center to provide better forecasts along the Maquoketa River. Thank you, Jim, for taking these observations for the NWS and the city of Monticello.

25 and 20 Year Honored Institution Awards

A 25 year Honored Institution Award was presented to the Monmouth Waste Water Plant in Illinois by NWS Davenport, IA Meteorologist Tim Gross. The plant has been taking observations since December 1995. Accepting the award was Wastewater Manager Bill Hart and several wastewater plant employees.



The city of Big Stone Gap, VA was recently presented the 25 year Honored Institution award. Presenting the award and providing the photo was Derek Eisentrout, OPL at NWS Morristown, TN.



Randy Arledge observer (left), Brandon Peloquin WCM NWS Wilmington, OH (center), and Ashley Novak Meteorologist at NWS Wilmington, OH (right). Photo by James Gibson, OPL at NWS Wilmington, OH

Randy Arledge, along with several members of the Circleville Water Treatment Plant, has been providing weather observations for 20 years. Thank you for your dedication!

Special Service Awards



Ryan Vipond, Meteorologist (left), Leland Treichel, observer, Scott Doering, Meteorologist (right)

Leland Treichel was presented with a Special Service Award for his many years of dedicated service as the observer from Roscoe, SD. Leland was the long-time Emergency Manager for Edmunds County, SD and a close partner with the NWS office in Aberdeen.

Carrie Ealum, Administrative Support Associate, received a Special Service Award for her partnership in entering the daily weather observations for the Weather Service. The Fairhope AL site, which has been in existence since 1934, is a part of the Historical Climate Network.

Presenting the award was Joe Maniscalco, OPL at NWS Mobile/Pensacola.

75 Year Family Heritage Awards



NWS Western Region Deputy Director Jeff Zimmerman (left), Bonnie Richardson (center), NWS Pendleton MIC Mike Vescio (right)

Bonnie Richardson, at Richardson's Rock Ranch north of Madras, OR, was presented a 75 Year Family Heritage Award. The Kennedy-Richardson Family has been providing daily precipitation observations since 1945.

50 Year Family Heritage Awards



From left: Thomas Johnstone, Meteorologist-In-Charge, Ashley Novak, Meteorologist, current observer, Roger Rhonemus, and his sister (previous observer) Polly Rummer. Picture taken by James Gibson, Observing Program Leader NWS Wilmington, OH

The Rhonemus Family of West Union, OH have been providing precipitation data and river readings to the NWS for over 50 years. Roger, his sister Polly Rummer, and their father have been observers for over a combined 50 years.



From left: Scott Doering, NWS Meteorologist, Randall Hanson, observer, and Ryan Vipond, NWS Meteorologist

Randall Hanson received his Family Heritage Award for 50 years of dedicated service to the NWS as the observer from Artichoke Lake, MN. NWS Aberdeen Meteorologists Scott Doering and Ryan Vipond recently visited Mr. Hanson at his farm in west central Minnesota. Randall's "shirt-tail" cousin, Charles, started the observations in 1972 before he retired and handed it off to Randall in 2017.

50 Year Length of Service Awards



John and Carolyn Sundberg have been taking excellent daily weather observations in Hayden, Colorado for 50 years, starting in April 1, 1972. During this time, they have received every possible award for high quality observations, including the John Holm Award back in 2008 and the Thomas Jefferson Award in 2013. John and Carolyn are a great team; John usually takes the precipitation and snow readings, and Carolyn annotates the values on a form and calls in the data. Not a day goes by when the Grand Junction NWS doesn't receive a 6 pm call with their data. A newspaper article highlighting their weather work says, "Calling John and Carolyn Sundberg dependable is an understatement." The article goes on to quote a pastor who said, "Whatever it is they commit to, they commit to... they take it to heart. If they say they are going to do something, it is going to get done." The Sundbergs have observed a wide range of weather in their 50 years of observing, including 8 inches of snow on June 14; 98 degrees in July 1981 and -44 in February of 1989. Many thanks go out to the Sundbergs for their years of outstanding weather observations.



From left: Ashley Novak, NWS Meteorologist at Wilmington, Ohio, Thomas Johnstone, Meteorologist-In-Charge at Wilmington, OH, Glenn Harner, Observer, and his wife, Phyllis Harner. Picture taken by James Gibson, Observing Program Leader National Weather Service Wilmington, OH

Glenn Harner has been providing temperature and precipitation observations to the National Weather Service for 50 years. Thank you, Glenn, for your dedication and service! Several family and friends gathered to congratulate Glenn on this achievement.

40 Year Length of Service Awards



From left: Ashley Novak, Meteorologist NWS Wilmington, OH, John Stephenson, Observer, and Thomas Johnstone, Meteorologist-In-Charge at NWS Wilmington, OH. Picture taken by James Gibson, Observing Program Leader NWS Wilmington, OH

John Stephenson of Kings Mills, Ohio has been providing precipitation and river data to the NWS for 40 years. Thank you, John, for your dedication and service!

The Stephenson Family of Kings Mills, OH has been providing weather observations to the NWS for over 75 years.

Jeffrey McCulla of St.Paris, OH has been providing precipitation data to the NWS for 40 years. Thank you, Jeffrey, for your dedication!



From left: observer's wife Leta McCulla, observer Jeffrey McCulla, Service Hydrologist at NWS Wilmington, OH Julie Dian-Reed, and Meteorologist at NWS Wilmington, OH Ashley Novak. Photo by OPL James Gibson

35 Year Length of Service Awards



Brian Haines, NWS MIC (left), Tom Risse, observer (right)

Brian Haines, the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Charleston, SC presented Mr. Tom Risse of Yemassee, SC with a 35 year Length of Service Award for his dedication and service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program. This site began recording data April 1, 1883. Tom is a big part of the reason the Yemassee COOP site is so successful, with 140 years of records! The site is currently located at his residence and was previously at the Alpha Genesis Primate Research Center. Thank you, Tom, for your incredible dedication to providing timely and accurate daily temperature and precipitation measurements for South Carolina and our nation!

Ray Tull and his backup observer Dick Reu from Donnellson Iowa received their 35 year Length of Service Award from NWS Davenport Meteorologist Tim Gross. Ray and Dick have reported timely and accurate daily temperature, precipitation, and snowfall observations since August 1987. Ray also received the Thomas Jefferson Award for his outstanding reporting through his many years. Thank you Ray and Dick for your dedicated service to your community and to the NWS!



Observers Ray Tull (left) and Dick Reu (right)

35 Year Length of Service Awards



Juanita Hays was recognized for 35 years of faithful service as a volunteer weather observer for the NWS and Lamar, CO. Juanita has provided excellent weather observations, recording temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall data. Her COOP site also doubles as a backup to the ASOS in Lamar and has been used for this purpose on several occasions. Thank you, Juanita, for all your hard work and dedication, it is truly appreciated!

Nanc Burns, Cooperative Weather Observer of Meade KS, was presented with a 35 year Length of Service Award by Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Dodge City. Nanc has been the primary observer for Meade since 1987. She records temperature, precipitation, and snowfall data. Pete Dellinger, Electronics Technician, was also in attendance for the presentation. The Meade station has been in existence since 1895, when it was begun by F. Fuhr. Nanc Burns took over the observing duties from James Evans in 1987.



Michelle Margraf, NWS MPX OPL (left) and Gary Newton, observer (right). Photo by Paige Marten, Meteorologist at NWS Twin Cities.

Congratulations and thank you to National Weather Service COOP observer Gary Newton for 35 years of service. Gary has recorded daily weather observations for the town of Baldwin, WI since 1988. He was presented with a Length of Service Award on May 17th by National Weather Service Twin Cities Observing Program Leader Michelle Margraf.



George Korn from Aledo, IL received his 35 year Length of Service Award by NWS Davenport Meteorologist Tim Gross. He has been reporting weather observations for the city since July 1987. George, a Korean War veteran, has always enjoyed the weather and has taken readings in all types of weather from the Great Flood of 1993, the heavy snows in December 2000, and the Ground Hog Day Blizzard of 2011. Thank you, George, for your many years of weather observations for the NWS!

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



John Kyle, NWS DAPM (left), and Phillip Virden (right)

Phillip Virden, longtime resident of Lake City, CO, receives his 35 year Length of Service Award. Phillip is a pillar in the community. He owns and runs the movie theater in town, is on the school board, and is an amateur astronomer.



Several of the NWS Indianapolis employees including those from the office's Cooperative Observer Program team, stand with Bob to mark the occasion. From left: Alexander McGinnis, Sam Lashley, Bob McLain, Brad Herold, Chad Swain, and Joe Nield.

NWS Indianapolis is celebrating 30 years of service by Bob McLain. Through the years, Bob has been an exemplary observer, taking great care and detail in his weather observations and reporting twice daily with unwavering dedication and upbeat conversations on the telephone and visits to our office.



Bob and Helen St Clair from Luray, MO received their 30 year Length of Service Award by NWS Davenport Meteorologist Tim Gross. Bob and Helen have been actively reporting precipitation and snowfall observations from their home since Aug 4th, 1993. Thank you, Bob and Helen, for your dedication!

Joe Maniscalco, OPL at NWS Mobile/Pensacola, presented Jamie Heathcock, Station Manager of WABO Radio in Waynesboro, MS, with a 30 year Length of Service Award. Jamie started on at the radio station as a DJ in the mid '80s and started taking weather observations in July 1993. Jamie has been an invaluable partner to the NWS over the years. He records the daily high and low temperatures and measures precipitation for the radio station, which has served as a COOP station since 1963. He is active in the Waynesboro community and is a candidate for Waynesboro, MS Chancery Clerk in the 2024 primary.



Joe Maniscalco, OPL NWS Mobile/Pensacola (left) and Jamie Heathcock, Station Manager of WABO Radio in Waynesboro (right). Photo by Melissa Clay

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Robert Footlik was recently recognized for 30 years of faithful service as a volunteer weather observer. With service in the role of observer split between California and now Colorado, Robert has continued to provide excellent weather observations, daily reporting temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall. Thank you, Robert, for all your hard work and dedication. We look forward to continuing the partnership for many years to come.

Mike Ely, long-time National Weather Service Mobile/Pensacola COOP observer with the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Beaumont, MS, was presented with the 30 year Length of Service Award and pin. He was honored for his partnership and dedicated weather observations, which include taking daily high and low temperatures from the only remaining Cotton Region Shelter in the NWS Mobile Pensacola's area of responsibility. Mike also reports daily precipitation and daily soil temperatures. Those in attendance celebrating Mike's achievement were his colleagues, Teddy Heintz, Tommie Johnson, Dr. Christina Coker, Associate Research and Extension Center Professor who manages the Unit, and his wife Teresa Ely and grand-daughter.



Joe Maniscalco, OPL NWS Mobile/Pensacola (left) and Mike Ely (right). Photo by Dr. Christina Coker.



Dusty Woods (left) and Darrell Woods (right). Photo by Jesse Lee

Darrell Woods, former Cooperative Weather Observer in Kalvesta, Kansas was presented with a 30-year Length of Service Award on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 by Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Dodge City. Darrell had been the primary observer since 2010 before his son Dusty took over. He recorded precipitation and snowfall data and was the backup observer to J. Hayes Baldwin from 1992 until 2010. Dusty Woods was also in attendance for the presentation. The Kalvesta station, which is located at the Kalvesta Implement Company, was started in 1959 by Mr. Baldwin.

Gail Lawrence, the NWS Cooperative Weather Observer in Jerico Springs, MO, was presented with the 30 year Length of Service Award by Tom Olsen, OPL at NWS Springfield. Gail volunteers his time every morning taking the daily rainfall and snowfall readings. There is a long history of climate data for Jerico Springs. The station started May 1st, 1962, when William P. Long volunteered to take daily rain and snow measurements. Gail is the longest tenured observer in Jerico Springs. Thank you, Gail, for your dedicated service to the Jerico Springs community and the NWS.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Lou Thourot has been managing the weather observers at the Wauseon Water Plant in Wauseon, OH for the past 30 years. He makes sure that his operators/observers are trained to put in remarks and note hazardous weather on the weather reports. He also maintains the historical weather logs going back to 1869, when observations began in Wauseon. Additionally, he keeps historical records from other sites around Ohio from the Ohio Weather & Crop Service. Interestingly, some of these early logs also include remarks about native bird sightings around the area.



Edward Kelso has been a dedicated Cooperative Weather Observer in Plymouth, Indiana for the past 30 years. He reports temperatures, precipitation, and snow to the NWS daily. He also often submits excessive rain and snow amounts to local online weather personalities through social media.



Chris Kirkwood has been a dedicated Cooperative Weather Observer in Hartford City, Indiana for the past 30 years. He reports temperatures as well as rain and snow, and he also maintains a Fisher Porter rain gauge. Tracking the weather is important to Chris, since he also enjoys camping and gardening and is even trying his hand at growing corn this summer.



Congratulations and thank you to Dan Reynolds of WTWO/WAWV-TV for his 30 years of volunteer public service as an NWS cooperative observer at our Farmersburg TV-2 station! One of Dan's memorable moments recording weather conditions since he joined the TV station in May 1993 was a cold snap in January 1994, when subzero temperatures were reported on the 18th with a high of -4°F and low of -25 , followed by a low the next day of -31 . Brrr! Another event that comes to Dan's mind is the excessive rainfall and flooding of June 2008, when his COOP station recorded nearly 14 inches of rainfall in the first 7 days of the month! When not occupied with the weather and broadcasting, Dan enjoys travel, sports (go Notre Dame and Bears!), family, and friends. Probably the most surprising aspect of Dan is that he appeared as a reporter in the 2014 drama/romance movie "Vanished."

30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Frank Ward, the Cooperative Weather Observer from Walton, NY was presented with a 25 year Length of Service Award from NWS Binghamton Observation Program Leader, Joanne LaBounty.



Joe Boos was recognized for 25 years of dedicated service. A recent Holm Award winner, Mr. Boos continues to provide excellent weather observations and doubles as the Official Snow Observer for the LCD ASOS site in Alamosa, CO. He continues to report daily temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall totals for the Alamosa area. Thank you, Joe, for all your hard work and dedication over 25 years!



Observer Jim Elliott (left) and IWX OPL Rachel Cobb (right)

Jim Elliott has been a contract weather observer at the Fort Wayne International Airport in northeast Indiana for the past 25 years. In addition to making sure that the METARs go out correctly for the FAA, Jim and his colleagues also provide snowfall and backup precipitation observations for the NWS. Jim has an environmental science degree and began taking observations in Indianapolis in 1997. He had a brief stint at the Louisville Airport before making the move to Fort Wayne in 1998. For the last 41 years he has also worked part time as an ambulance EMT. Jim's favorite part about observing the weather is tracking severe storms.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Larry Dennis, the Cooperative Weather Observer in Mansfield, MO, was presented with the 25 year Length of Service Award. Larry volunteers his time every morning taking and sending daily 24 hour max/min temperature, rainfall, and snowfall readings. There is a long history of climate data for Mansfield. The station started with J.W. James taking daily rain and snow measurements starting January 1st, 1893. There was a gap from June 30, 1898 through April 2, 1945, then Smith Fry started taking daily precipitation readings. Thank you, Larry, for your dedicated service to the Mansfield community and the NWS. Presenting the award was Tom Olsen, OPL at NWS Springfield.

Noel Clemens received a 25 year Length of Service Award on behalf of himself and his wife, Mary, for their site at Camden, NY. Photo by NWS Binghamton OPL, Joanne LaBounty.



Dr. Paul Wolyn and Dr. Kathy Wolyn were recognized for 25 years of weather observations. Paul, who also is the long time SOO at NWS Pueblo, doubles as the official COOP observer for Rye, CO. Aided by his wife Kathy, they have provided temperature, precipitation, and snowfall data for Rye in addition to maintaining and supplying data from a Fisher Porter rain gauge. Rye is located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains and often experiences extreme weather conditions in the winter. The Wolyns have always overcome the challenge of taking accurate weather observations and providing valuable storm reports to the local weather office when needed. Thank you, Paul and Kathy, for all your efforts these past 25 years



25 Year Length of Service Awards



From left: Ashley Novak Meteorologist NWS, observer Jerry Oaks Jr., Service Hydrologist Julie Dian-Reed. Photo taken by Observing Program Leader James Gibson

Jerry Oaks Jr. of the Miami Conservancy District in Piqua, OH has been providing precipitation observations for 25 years. Thank you, Jerry, for your dedication!



Dean Malcolm has been a Cooperative Weather Observer on his corn, soybean, and hay farm in Butler, IN for the past 25 years. As a farmer, he needs to be in tune to what the weather is doing, and he states that people are always asking him about the weather. He measures rain and melted snow from a standard rain gauge for the NWS and also has his own temperature and wind sensor. Dean keeps all of his weather reports on paper, and he also has the records from the previous Butler observers. He says that when he was first asked to be an NWS observer, he was skeptical and thought that it would take too much time, but he now enjoys it as part of his daily morning routine. In his spare time, Dean maintains an impressive toy tractor collection (mainly John Deere).



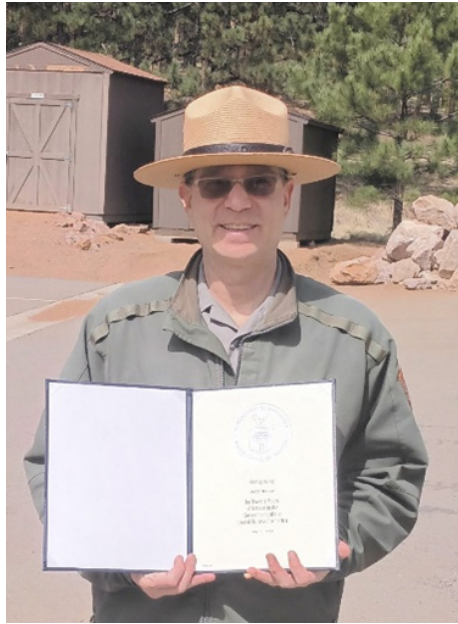
Malcomb Pegues received a 25 year Length of Service Award from Joe Maniscalco, NWS Mobile/ Pensacola OPL, for his dedicated weather observations for the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center two miles northeast of Fairhope, AL. Malcomb records daily high and low temperatures, precipitation, evaporation pan data, and soil temperatures.



Leland and Sharon Shaum have been dedicated observers on their family farm in Goshen, Indiana for the past 25 years. They actually maintain 107 years of weather data, after taking over the records from the previous Goshen observer. Sharon has input all of this data into spreadsheets and uses it to calculate heating degree days, the growing season, and records of the warmest and coolest months and years. Their son even uses the data in the classroom where he teaches. One anecdote that they like to share is that an aunt would claim that her friend built her a snowman on her 12th birthday, September 25, 1942. No one believed that it snowed that much so early in the fall, until Sharon and

Leland looked up the weather records and proved that there was indeed measurable snowfall on that date. The Shaums not only record temperature and precipitation data, but also keep a Fisher Porter rain gauge and participate in CoCoRaHS.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Mr. Jeff Wolin was recognized for 20 years of service as an NWS Weather Observer. Mr. Wolin works for the U.S. Forest Service and has recorded temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument daily. Thank you, Jeff, for all of your hard work and dedication to keep the weather observation program up and running at this location. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Holly Boggs, Director of Communications Department/Dispatch at the Public Safety office in Eldon, MO, received a 20 year Length of Service Award from Thomas Olsen, Observation Program Leader at NWS Springfield.

Holly started taking daily weather observations in July of 2001 and has since been the Cooperative Observer focal point. Since Holly cannot be there every day, she gets help from her operators, Eric Albertson, Marta Davis, Miranda Pannell, Erin Akers, Lisa Reed, and Alisha Tucker, who take daily rainfall and temperature readings for the NWS. Eldon Public Safety has been volunteering for the NWS since May 1st, 1980. S. Newton was the first daily weather observer who started in the area of Eldon back in May of 1890. Thank you, Holly and the Eldon Public Safety volunteers, for your outstanding service to your community and the National Weather Service!



Standing next to a Fischer-Porter Rain Gauge, Martin Gilmore, Quality Control-Safety Supervisor with Goodway Refining Inc. at Atmore, AL, was presented with the 20 year Length of Service award and pin. He has taken observations since 2003, when the COOP equipment was relocated to the Goodway site from the Atmore State Nursery, which began COOP service in March of 1940. Martin leads a team of four operators who take daily weather observations for the plant. Martin says it's a team effort

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Anthony Lampros of Germany Valley, Rabun County, GA received a 20 year Length of Service Award. Anthony is a retired law enforcement ranger from Georgia State Parks. Germany is a high valley location in the mountains of Northeast Georgia. The award was presented by OPL Chris Horne of NWS GSP.



George Bladecki (left) and Rob Shale (right)

The Cooperative Weather Observers for the city of New Carlisle, Indiana's wastewater plant were each presented with Length of Service awards this year. George Bladecki has served as a precipitation and snow observer for the past 10 years, and Rob Shale for the past 20 years. They are dedicated observers despite the many other duties that they perform for the city. Sadly, this is Rob's last year as an observer, although he is looking forward to retiring in February and spending his free time fishing near his lake house. Congratulations Rob!

Cooperative weather observations began at the WGOL Radio Station in downtown Russellville, AL in 1953. The current observer, John Pilati, began taking official observations there in 1998. Since then, John and the staff there have taken over 8,975 observations in that time. Below are a few weather tidbits from the past 20 years:

Over 1,330 inches of rainfall has been measured at WGOL Radio Station since 1998, which converts to just shy of 111 FEET of rainfall if it occurred at all once! The wettest year on record since 1998 was 2020, when 85.31" fell. Conversely, the driest year on record was 14.63" from 2010. That's about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the typical/climatological rainfall that seen in Russellville in any given year! With respect to snowfall, the 2011 season was the snowiest; 9.5" fell for the season. The snowiest day on record also occurred during that snowiest season, occurring on January 10, 2011 when 7.5" of snow was observed at WGOL. A wide array of temperatures have also been observed since John began back in 1998. Since his official start date as the observer, 106F was the hottest daily temperature recorded, and 1F was the coldest, occurring in January of 2014.



We are grateful to John Pilati and the wonderful staff at WGOL Radio Station in Russellville, AL. We also appreciate the observations dating back to the site's initiation in 1953. From NWS Director Ken Graham, NWS Southern Region Director Mike Coyne, NWS Huntsville Meteorologist-in-Charge Todd Barron, and local Observations Program Leader at NWS Huntsville Chelly Amin, we congratulate John Pilati and the staff at WGOL Radio Station! Thank you for your hard work, and congratulations on your 20 Year Length of Service award!

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Danny Murphy, observer (left), Derrick Murphy, son and backup observer (right). Photo by NWS Davenport Meteorologist Tim Gross

Danny Murphy and his son Derrick from Stanley, IA received their 20 year Length of Service Award given by NWS Davenport Meteorologist Tim Gross. Danny and Derrick are avid storm chasers and weather enthusiasts that keep the NWS and TV Mets informed when the weather becomes hazardous in northeast IA. Some of their storm photos have been used in NWS storm spotter talks. Congratulations, and thank you for your dedication taking weather readings for the NWS and Buchanan County.

Dean Aschenbrenner of North Tonawanda, NY is presented with a 15 year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.

Dean has not only been a reliable Coop Observer, but he has also reported daily to CoCoRaHS for the past 15 years. As a science teacher, Mr. Aschenbrenner established a CoCoRaHS station at his school, where the 4th and 5th grade students took the daily observations. He and his students were instrumental in helping NWS Buffalo learn how to use their newly installed WSR-88D Radar back in the mid-1990s by providing numerous "ground truth" observations at the school.



Paul and Janelle Kukuk were recognized for 15 years of weather observations. The Kukuks' career as weather observers actually began many years before they became official weather observers. They continued a local observer program that had begun before moving to Santa Maria Reservoir. They supplied NWS Pueblo with observations from their personal equipment for many years in a mountainous area where few observations existed. They were finally supplied with NWS equipment and made official 15 years ago, and the quality and reliability of the observations have always been top notch. The Kukuks have taken daily temperature, precipitation, and snowfall reports throughout this period. Thank you, Paul and Janelle, for all your efforts these last 15 years and more.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Dave Ross, observer (left) and Tim Gross, NWS Davenport, IA, Meteorologist

Dave and Suzy Ross of Augusta, IA received their 15 year Length of Service Award for taking daily precipitation and snowfall readings for the NWS. Suzie enjoys the outdoors, taking care of her grandkids, and spending time with her family. Dave also enjoys doing anything outside and spending time with his family. In addition to sending observations to the NWS, they take river samples for the USGS along the Skunk River. Thank you for your dedication helping us record weather data in southeast Iowa.



Dennis Nowaskie celebrated 15 years as an NWS cooperative observer at the Southwest Purdue Ag Center in Vincennes, IN. In addition to overseeing the farm's COOP participation, as Superintendent, Dennis manages all daily activities at the farm such as production activities, assisting campus based and industry personnel with managing and maintaining all research projects, managing and marketing bulk crops, crop rotation, maintenance and purchasing of equipment, selection and supervision of employees, and area public relations for Purdue University. Dennis is a lifelong resident of Vincennes, born on a melon farm south of Vincennes, and married with two children. When not attending to farm business or his family, Dennis likes to follow NASCAR racing and watch the occasional ball game.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Donna Allenbaugh was recognized for 15 years of COOP weather observations. Donna began her career as a weather observer many years before joining the NWS Coop program. She was one of the first CoCoRaHS observers in the early years of the program. After the retirement of the previous observer, Donna was contacted to gauge her interest in becoming the Official weather observer for Walsenburg, CO. She soon joined the NWS family and has faithfully provided temperature, precipitation, and snowfall data for an area near the mountains that is often challenging to observe weather in. She also maintains a Fisher Porter rain gauge and supplies the data to the local office in Pueblo. Thank you, Donna, for all of your efforts over the past 15 years!

Wayne Larson of Marion, IA was presented his 15 year Length of Service award by NWS Meteorologist Tim Gross. Wayne has been a backup observer and now the primary observer for the Cedar Rapids area for over 17 years. His observations have been used to continue the long period of record for the 2nd largest city in Iowa, Cedar Rapids. In particular, his snowfall observations have been consistent and accurate and have been used by the media in snowfall summaries for the city. Thank you, Wayne, for your dedication and service to the community.



Tim Gross, NWS Meteorologist (left), Wayne Larson, observer (right)

Cooperative weather observations began at the Moulton Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lawrence County, Alabama back in 1957. The current observer, Mark Heflin, began taking official observations in 2007. Since then, Mark and the guys here at the Wastewater Plant have taken over 5,800 observations! Here are just a few of the notable weather tidbits over the last 15 years:

Just shy of 1,000" of rain has fallen in over 15 years (988.19" officially), which converts to about 82 FEET of rain falling at once! The wettest year on record was 2020 when 83.03" fell. The driest year on record was during 2007, when only 23.89" fell. The wettest day observed was December 26, 2015, when 9.23" fell. Conversely, regarding snowfall at the site, the snowiest season was in January/February of 2011 when 9.3" fell. The snowiest month on record belongs to February 2015, when 8.5" fell. And the snowiest day on record was February 26, 2015, when the monthly snowfall total occurred in one day: 8.5"! A wide array of temperatures have also been observed since Mark began back in 2007. Since his official start date as the observer, 103F was the hottest day recorded, which occurred in August of 2007. The coldest temperature observed since then was 2F just this past December in 2022.

We are thankful for the teamwork of Mark Heflin and the staff at the Moulton Wastewater Treatment Plant, and for the observations reaching back to April of 1957. We appreciate their hard work and service to provide the National Weather Service with observational weather data! From NWS Director Ken Graham, NWS Southern Region Director Mike Coyne, NWS Huntsville Meteorologist-in-Charge Todd Barron, and local Observations Program Leader at NWS Huntsville Chelly Amin, we congratulate Mark Heflin and the staff at the Wastewater Treatment Plant! Thank you for all you do for us, and congratulations on your 15 Year Length of Service Award!

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Jim Bergantz of Colden, NY received a 15 year Length of Service Award from NWS OPL Dan Kelly. In addition to being a very reliable Coop Observer, Jim also has been a CoCoRaHS Observer for many years, as is evident by his Evapotranspiration Gage. Colden is in a prime location for lake effect snow off of Lake Erie and averages 167.6 inches of snow annually. In over 15 years of service as a Cooperative Observer, Jim has measured a total of 3001.5 inches of snow!



Jim Maryinuk (left) and NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly (right). Photo by Linda Maryinuk

Jim Maryinuk of Palermo, NY was presented with a 10 year Length of Service Award. In addition to taking observations for the NWS Buffalo Office at his Palermo home, Jim was also instrumental in establishing a Coop station at Lock O-3 in Fulton, NY, when he was the Chief Lock Operator there.



Johnny Alford (left) and Robert Rogers (right)

Johnny Alford, Communications Center Supervisor, and Robert Rogers, Water and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Operations Manager of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) of Pensacola Florida, received 10 year Length of Service Awards and pins on March 24, 2023. They were honored for their partnership and dedicated daily rainfall observations at the ECUA facility, which is vital to their daily operations. Presenting the awards and taking the photo was Joe Maniscalco, OPL NWS Mobile/Pensacola.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Congratulations to Cooperative Weather Observer Chad Wasinger of Scott City, Kansas. He was presented with a 10 year Length of Service Award on Thursday, August 3rd by Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader, from the National Weather Service in Dodge City. Chad has been the primary observer since 2013. He records temperature, precipitation, and snowfall data. The Scott City station has been in existence since 1889 and was at the railroad office when it first started. There were several different observers during the early years, with Mrs. J.M. Gentry being the first individual observer. Chad took over in 2013 from Tim McGonagle. Chad has seen his share of weather, which included the extreme wind event in December 2021, the heavy rains of over seven inches during the late afternoon and overnight of June 19th, 2018, and the heavy snow event in early 2022, where the snow remained on the ground for 15 days before it was gone.

Kathryn Conrad of Wallace, AL received a 10 year Length of Service Award in grateful recognition of her dedicated rainfall observations in cooperation with the National Weather Service. Kathryn took over rainfall observations for her mother, Essie Chavers, who was a prestigious Dick Hagemeyer COOP Award recipient in honor of her 45 years of service and several years later, the prestigious Edward H. Stoll COOP Award recipient in honor of her 50 years of service as a National Weather Service Coop Observer. The coop station dates back to over 80 years, established in May 1941, where several other family members served as observers; Kathryn keeps the station's data going to this day.



Joe Maniscalco, OPL at NWS Mobile/Pensacola (left) and Kathryn Conrad (right). Photo by Amy Barkhouse, daughter of award recipient.



Jarrold Jones received a 10 year Length of Service Award. Jarrod records daily high and low temperatures, precipitation, evaporation pan data, and soil temperatures.

Presenting the award was Joe Maniscalco, OPL at NWS Mobile/Pensacola.

Roy Carter of Anamosa was presented his 10 year Length of Service Award by NWS Meteorologist Tim Gross. Roy and his family have been reporting timely and accurate observations on his farm. Thank you, Roy, for your dedication and service to the community.

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**Spring-Summer
2023**



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