

Public Employees Honored for Outstanding Service

The Extra Mile Award honors employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

“These outstanding workers volunteer their valuable time and resources to the state of Washington,” said Secretary of State Sam Reed. “They do this to help children, promote diversity, save state dollars and risk their own lives to save others.”

Individuals receiving the Extra Mile Award include:

- **Jill Jones**, Department of Natural Resources – Jones developed an innovative system linking office processing personnel to field personnel, providing renewed program teamwork. The result has been a more efficient and effective use of program resources, leading to timely, accurate data reporting and analysis.
- **Rod Pfeifle**, Department of Natural Resources – Pfeifle made a critical contribution toward solving the rapid decline in the health of Eastern Washington forests. He virtually single-handedly started the Forest Improvement Treatment program in the Southwest Region while providing strong leadership in expanding its scope and effectiveness.
- **Ovidiu Cretu**, Department of Transportation – Cretu developed a Self-Modeling Risk Management Spreadsheet to be used on all Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) projects. The spreadsheet saved WSDOT thousands of dollars while improving delivery of projects.
- **Paul Simonsen**, Department of Transportation – Simonsen developed a liquid chemical product that melts snow and ice at temperatures to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, meets all of the Pacific Northwest Snowfighters anti-corrosion standards, and lasts as long as the currently purchased products but costs about half as much.
- **Dennis Brown**, Department of Veterans Affairs – Brown helps homeless veterans with his visionary thinking in developing solutions for eye and dental care services and helps find resources for needed items. He is truly committed to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ mission of “Serving Those Who have Served.”
- **Mark Fischer**, Department of Veterans Affairs - Fischer’s vision and tenacious adherence to his goals of creating education and careers for war veterans have made the Ecotherapy program a success.

Teams receiving the Extra Mile Award include:

- **Human Services Team, DR-1734-WA**, Emergency Management Division, Military Department – For three months, the team worked through the holidays, 12-plus hours a day, seven days a week conducting recovery operations for the December 2007 storm. The team selflessly provided exceptional, timely and record-setting service to a highly traumatized segment of citizens.
- **Eastern State Hospital DPOD**, Department of Social and Health Services – During lunch a patient was choking and the team in DPOD jumped to action saving her and making sure she stayed calm afterward until she received medical attention.
- **Region 1 Community Service Division Disaster Food Assistance Program**, Department of Social and Health Services – A team of nine volunteer employees assisted families impacted by the December 2007 storm and helped them regain some semblance of a normal life by helping administer the Federal Disaster Food Stamp Program. The team worked 10-to-12-hour shifts processing food assistance applications, greeting customers, referring clients to services and providing general office support to fellow workers.
- **Glen Carson, Jeremy Grove and Joe Shapansky**, Department of Transportation – During the December 2007 storm, Carson, Grove and Shapansky braved the dangerous conditions to clear trees and debris along Highway 101 in order to clear a route for an ambulance heading to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with two injured PUD workers.

Individuals nominated for the Extra Mile Award included: Neil Lanning, Department of Agriculture; Janelle Ducey-Gardner and Becky Turnbull, Bellevue Community College; John Ginther and Lynda Leeper, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Betsy Fotheringill, Michael Gonzales, Don Meseck and Beverly Peterson, Employment Security Department; Natalie Gonzalez, Diana Nelson, Taylor Stair and Patricia Warren, Department of Health; Idolina Reta, Human Rights Commission; Gary Duffield, Department of Information Services; Josephine Townsend, Department of Licensing; Kathleen Bratton, Willie Manning and Ruth Watts, Liquor Control Board; Brett Freeman and Richard Beuscher, Department of Natural Resources; Mary Hammer and Megan Moreno, Office of Secretary of State; Angie Brown, Robby Chiles, Daniel Covrett, Sonya DeWitt, Kay Gedrose, Kandy Kraig, Keith Perron, Martha Rocha and Don Sessions, Department of Social and Health Services; Karen Hall, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; Robert Barnes, Linda Brown, Daniel Castro, Gary Davis, Otto Gershon, Jeff Hastings, Jim Hasselbalch, Ryan Hottell, Joanna Jones, Judy Lorenzo, Nicole Martinez, Pam McInnes, Terry Meara, Manny Quinteiro, Eric Schultz, Karen Schultz, Becky Spangle, Dan Sunde, Kristen Tuttle, Brian Walsh and Leland Yialelis, Department of Transportation; Pamela Lewis, Gary Hodgson and Lonnie James, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Teams nominated for the Extra Mile Award included: WSDA Chemical & Hop Laboratory Team, Department of Agriculture; Catalyst Team, Office of Attorney General; Leslie Lum Team, Bellevue Community College; Allen Robbins and Dan Filip, Department of Ecology; Publications Unit, Purchase Card Core Workgroup, WorkSource Spokane, Employment Security Department; First Steps MSS/ICM State Team, Investigation Services Unit, Performance Audit Team, Department of Health; Computer Services Division, Department of Information Services; Tammy Dotson Team, Department of Licensing; Liquor Store #125, Liquor Store #173, Liquor Control Board; Human Services Team, DR-1734-WA, Military Department; Angela Cahill, Corina Logan, Dean Adams, Larry Leach and the Salvage District and Dena Scroggie Team, Department of Natural Resources; Belltown CSO Outreach Team, Belltown Outreach Team, Jennifer Triggs Team, King County Criminal Justice Initiatives Team, Naselle Youth Camp/Harbor Lodge, Region 4 Customer Service Center, Region 5 After-hours Team, Region 6 Community Services Office, South Bend CSO, Department of Social and Health Services; 2007 Transportation Planning Symposium MVPs, Al Rouse and Melinda Raber, Bridge Structures Office, Chehalis Engineering Office, Construction/NWR Team, Geotechnical Division Instrumentation Team, J.C. Earlywine Team, Joanna Jones and Shannon Gaither, NW Region Financial Services Payroll Team, Olympic Region Traffic Maintenance Crew, Steve McIntyre and Team, Urban Corridors Office, Department of Transportation.