



Missouri State Employees of the Month

January 2009, State Employee of the Month

James Hatch – Department of Public Safety



Above State Fire Marshal Randy Cole (left) recognizes Inspector James Hatch as the January State Employee of the Month.

As a Fire Inspector for the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety, Inspector James Hatch conducts inspections of assigned state facilities and businesses, completes fire safety inspection surveys, advises facility/business management of any possible fire hazards, conducts re-inspection of facilities where improvements/ corrections have been recommended, leads educational fire safety seminars and presentations and many other related tasks.

It was while he was on his way to a present a fire prevention class that he displayed exceptional selflessness in an urgent situation. Inspector Hatch witnessed the aftermath of a motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles at a busy intersection; a sports utility vehicle [SUV] and a sedan. Inspector Hatch observed a man climbing from the driver's window of the SUV lying on its side and immediately pulled over and got out of his

vehicle to offer his assistance. As he was approaching to offer his assistance, a witness at the scene approached him and asked if he could assist the driver of the sedan that the witness reported to be in very bad condition.

The passenger window of the sedan was broken allowing Inspector Hatch to gain access to the vehicle. Once inside the sedan he determined that the victim did not have a pulse and needed immediate attention. He crawled back through the window, pried open the door, secured the assistance of two bystanders, and then provided manual in-line stabilization of the victim's neck and head while the bystanders pulled the victim from the vehicle. After the victim had been placed on the side of the road a registered nurse [RN] offered her assistance and she and Inspector Hatch began CPR. They were able to provide numerous CPR cycles before the fire department and ambulance arrived on the scene. A paramedic attached a cardiac monitor to the victim and determined that the victim did not have cardiac rhythm. At the direction of the paramedic Inspector Hatch and the RN provided one more cycle of CPR with the final determination by the paramedic that the victim, unfortunately, still did not have a cardiac rhythm. After providing a statement to the on-scene officers, Inspector Hatch was released from the scene proceeded to his residence to put on a new uniform shirt and went to conduct the fire prevention class.

Inspector James Hatch epitomizes the type of person we should all strive to emulate and the Department of Public Safety and citizens of Missouri are well-served by his service.

February 2009, State Employee of the Month

Jean Stieferman – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Above, Governor Nixon recognizes Jean Stieferman as the February State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family members, friends, and co-workers.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Missouri School for the Deaf offers free and appropriate education for students ages 5 – 21 who are deaf or hard of hearing. The staff at the Missouri School for the Deaf are caring and dedicated individuals; however one stands above the crowd – Ms. Jean Stieferman - who for the past 39 years has never faltered in her display of energy, responsibility, promptness and willingness to take on any assignment regardless of time and scheduling. As an Assistant Dorm Director, Ms. Stieferman often goes beyond her role supervising students and staff. Utilizing her Red Cross certification Jean instructs students in water safety and swimming, provides life guarding, and is certified in CPR and First Aide; all skills the school uses on a regular basis. Additionally, Jean serves as the Activity Coordinator planning activities for the dormitory students and staff, develops the activity calendar, teaches hunter safety education, maintains bus driving credentials to facilitate transportation and any willingly takes on any

other task that is in the best interest of students and staff. Jean's talent and skill was recently tested during a student outing at Little Dixie Lake near Millersburg, MO when a young boy, innocently strolling on a pier, lost his balance and fell into the water. Recognizing that the boy needed assistance, Jean immediately dove into the lake fully clothed and pulled the child to safety. No complaints, no theatrics, no questions, just joy that she was able to assist when needed.

Ms. Jean Stieferman is, without a doubt, a valuable asset to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri School for the Deaf and also to the citizens of Missouri.

March 2009, State Employee of the Month

Christina “Chrissie” Sherman – Department of Health and Senior Services



Above, Governor Nixon recognizes Christina Sherman as the March State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family members, friends, and co-workers.

Among her daily duties as a Social Service Worker II with the Department of Health and Senior Services Ms. Christina “Chrissie” Sherman investigates reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of the elderly and disabled, provides appropriate protective service interventions, conducts in home evaluations for home and community based services, and assists individuals in accessing available agency and community resources to help them safely remain in their homes. Ms. Sherman’s dedication and commitment to her clients was clearly demonstrated in the case of one particular client.

For over two years Chrissie worked to protect a disabled client from her own lack of understanding of the seriousness of her condition. The severity of this client’s illness required an almost constant watch by Ms. Sherman and on more than one occasion Chrissie arrived to find the client confused and near death. Each time Ms. Sherman would summon

the local authorities and get the needed assistance for her client. According to ER doctors had Ms. Sherman not arrived at the client’s house when she did the client would not have survived. Care for this client required more assistance than could safely be done in her home as there was need for 24 hour oversight, total meal and diet preparation, and monitoring and disbursement of medications.

Chrissie continually advocated for the protection of this client, while protecting her rights. She gathered statements from physicians, nurses, paramedics and others involved, and although Ms. Sherman encountered unusual resistance to protecting this client from outside sources, she was ultimately successful in petitioning the court to obtain a guardian/conservator to watch over the client’s best interests and assure she would receive the necessary medical and physical care needed.

Ms. Christina – “Chrissie” – Sherman continually displays characteristics that make her a model of service: caring, concern, dedication, tolerance, and perseverance; and she is without a doubt an asset to the Department of Health and Senior Services and the citizens of Missouri.

April 2009 State Employee of the Month

Sergeant Dale Jinkens – Department of Public Safety



Above Sgt. Dale Jinkens is recognized by Governor Nixon as the April State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are Dept. of Public Safety Director John Britt and Sergeant’s Jinkens wife and children.

On a daily basis the Missouri State Highway Patrol ensures the safety of all who traverse Missouri’s highway system. However this past November, Sergeant Dale Jinkens went well above and beyond what is reasonably expected. While on patrol he stopped a suspected intoxicated driver on Interstate 70. During the stop, with the suspect seated beside Sergeant Jinkens in his patrol car, a violent motor crash occurred at the bottom the exit ramp resulting in both vehicles involved bursting into flames after the impact.

Sergeant Jinkens took immediate action; ordered the suspect back to her car with instruction to wait until he was able to return, called for fire and ambulance and proceeded down the ramp to render assistance. The crash and resulting fire involved a 1985 Dodge van, which was pulling a trailer loaded with an industrial coffee roaster and the other vehicle was a 2000 Chrysler Cirrus. The Chrysler struck the rear of the trailer pulled by the van causing the tongue of the trailer to push into the back of the van rupturing the gasoline tank of the van which contributed to the explosion of fire which engulfed both vehicles after they had come to rest on the inside shoulder of I-70.

Arriving on the scene Sergeant Jinkens noted that the occupants of the Dodge had gotten out and escaped their vehicle without injury. The female drive of the Chrysler was trapped and on fire in her vehicle. Sergeant Jinkens approached the car with his fire extinguisher to find that the female drive was pinned between the car and the concrete highway divider. Sergeant Jinkens discharged his fire extinguisher knocking down the flames before organizing citizens to push the rear of the vehicle away from the divider. He then squeezed between the car and the divider to extract the female driver from the then fully engulfed cabin of the car, moved her to a distance, and finished extinguishing the flames on her body. Noticing the age of the driver, Sergeant Jinkens was concerned there may be children still in the burning car; so he immediately returned to the fully burning car emptied what was left of his fire extinguisher and a second fire extinguisher belonging to another officer who had arrived on the scene, until he was satisfied there was no one else trapped in the vehicle.

Sergeant Jinkens then organized assistance to the injured driver to include a passerby who possessed EMT training as well as two registered nurses and an off-duty Kansas City police officer who all worked to stabilize her before she was transported to a local hospital. Emergency room personnel reported that Sergeant Jinkens’ quick and immediate actions were a key factor in saving the life of this young woman who is expected to make a full recovery.

May 2009 State Employee of the Month

Trooper Lonnie Lejeune – Department of Public Safety



Governor Nix (center) recognizes Trooper Lonnie Lejeune (left of Governor Nixon) as the May State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are friends and fellow employees.

Our public safety officers continually do all in their power to sustain and protect life. However earlier this year, Trooper Lejeune went well above and beyond what is reasonably expected.

After the ice storm that swept across Missouri in January of this year, Trooper Lejeune was traveling across Scott County Road #448 – located in the northern part of Sikeston – when he heard a woman screaming for help. Trooper Lejeune's attention was brought to the scene of a man hanging from branch in a tree. Trooper Lejeune immediately pulled his patrol vehicle into the yard and ran to check on the condition of the gentleman. The man had climbed a ladder up into the tree to cut some broken and ice laden limbs that were hanging over his residence caused by the ice storm. The man apparently slipped while cutting the limbs and was hanging by his neck between an area shaped like a V caused by the tree and the branch he was cutting. Trooper Lejeune tried to free the victim by lifting up on the branch from the ground but was not successful. He then immediately climbed the ladder up into the tree and hooked his left arm around the tree trunk, his right arm around the unconscious man, and was able to lift the victim enough to restore breathing. Trooper Lejeune then instructed the ladies at the scene on how to locate and use the correct microphone in his patrol car and call Troop E Headquarters and request assistance. He did this while still continuing to provide support to the victim and monitor his breathing until assistance arrived approximately 15 minutes later.



Trooper Lonnie Lejeune is recognized as the Dept. of Public Safety Employee of the Month. [From left – Col. James Keathley, Trooper Lejeune, and Deputy Dept. Director Andrea Spillars]

The victim was transported to a nearby hospital and was expected to make a full recovery. Trooper Lejeune's quick thinking and selflessness are to be commended and his willingness to save the life of a trapped and injured citizen, while maintaining a cool demeanor, is a shining example of dedication to service. He is without question a person we should all strive to emulate and is a valuable asset not only to the Department of Public Safety, but to Missouri citizens.

June 2009 State Employee of the Month

Doris Smith – Department of Social Services



Governor Nixon [left of center] recognizes Doris Smith as the June State Employee of the Month. Also pictured far right is Director of the Dept. of Social Services, Ronald Levy, co-workers, and friends

Earlier this winter – January 2009 – Scott County, which is located in Southeast Missouri, was struck by a major ice storm leaving many people without power to heat their homes.

Ms. Doris Smith, a County Manager with the Department of Social Services Family Support Division, was tasked with the responsibility of opening two warming shelters and providing assistance and care for more than 500 people. Not only did Ms. Smith rise to this challenge and opened the shelters she also was instrumental in obtaining housing, food, electrical services, medical needs and many other services not typically provided by shelters. Doris managed this major responsibility while still maintaining her daily workload putting in many additional hours past her normal work day and placed the needs of the shelter residents above her and her families own needs. Doris jumped in and assisted staff in whatever task needed accomplishment; without ever complaining about the long extended work hours or additional work load.

Ms. Smith met personally with Governor Nixon and briefed him of the situation, what was needed, and how Scott County was managing the situation. She also worked endlessly in coordination of many different agencies including; Missouri State Highway Patrol, Sikeston Public Safety, Scott County Emergency Management, Scott County Courthouse and Commissioners, Sikeston Schools, Miner First Baptist Church, police departments for the cities of Scott, Chaffee, Oran, Morley and Miner and all utility companies concerned. Ms. Smith assured that Scott County workers staffed shelters 24 hours each day and that shelter residents had access to food, water, showers, electric, heat and any other personal need until the crisis passed.

Ms. Smith's willingness to make herself available to each and every person needing assistance; and her enormous amount of initiative and effort helped her control a very bad situation and made it workable for staff and clients.

Ms. Doris Smith's pride in her work and that of Scott County Family Support Division make her a true asset the Department of Social Services and the citizens of Missouri.

July 2009 State Employee of the Month

Dorothy Dolson – Department of Health and Senior Services



Governor Nixon [center] and Director of the Dept. of Health and Senior Services, Margaret Donnelly [left of Governor Nixon] recognize Dorothy Dolson as the July State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are co-workers and friends.

Shortly after joining the Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Cancer and Chronic Disease Control as a Senior Office Support Assistant (SOSA); Ms. Dolson gave new meaning to being a team player. During her first four months as a SOSA, while another support staff was on extended medical leave and other support staff duties were being transitioned, Dorothy also supported the Organ and Tissue Donor Program – a workload equivalent to that of 1.5 full time employees.

Despite of her limited knowledge of the Bureau of Cancer and Chronic Disease Control and how its program operated, Dorothy did not hesitate to offer her assistance for the Organ and Tissue Donor Program and learned and responded to the requirements of both programs very effectively with little to no training. Ms. Dolson continuously remained positive and upbeat providing complete, accurate, and timely work for two program managers and five other staff members

Dorothy's keen observation of her fellow employees enables her to identify when someone needs assistance and then takes the initiative to jump in and help in any matter needed. Her pro-active approach in handling her responsibilities enabled her to learn program content, new bureau processes, computer programs, and meet deadlines in a short timeframe and her contagious positive attitude and zest for life helps make the Bureau of Cancer and Chronic Disease Control a more positive place to work.

Dorothy not only takes an active part in assisting the programs she supports, but those of the entire Bureau as well making her a true asset to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

August 2009 State Employee of the Month

LaDon Dial – Department of Corrections



Governor Nixon [center] recognizes LaDon Dial as the August State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family members and co-workers.

As a Probation and Parole Officer II for the Department of Corrections Board of Probation and Parole, Ms. Dial works to assess the needs and risk levels of offenders to determine appropriate supervision, conducts investigation on offenders for the circuit courts and the Board of Probation and Parole, and maintains a challenging interstate caseload. LaDon always gives top-notch service to her clients and treats them with a high level of respect which allows them to maintain dignity while working through the problems they have created for themselves. Recently however, she gave new meaning to service.

Last summer, Ms. Dial was contacted by the Independence Police Department and was informed that one of her clients was a suspect in burglary. Knowing this particular client's background and family structure, LaDon was somewhat skeptical. The client's brother had an extensive history of drug use as well as using

his brother's name and identification during the past year. Ms. Dial contacted her client to inquire about any arrests and he stated that he had just returned from work and had not had any contact with law enforcement.

LaDon informed him of the situation and suggested that he contact the Independence Police Department to clear up the matter. She then proceeded to meet him at the police department at 8:30 pm, well beyond her normal job hours. Once at the police department she informed the police of her suspicion that the brother was actually the person they arrested. After investigation it was confirmed that it was indeed the brother and the police corrected all the forms and databases to show the correct person arrested.

Ms. Dial's willingness to go the "extra mile" to correct a situation she knew to be wrong and her initiative to meet with her client at the police station demonstrated to the client a positive way to resolve a situation. LaDon Dial is without a doubt an asset not only to the clients she serves but to the Department of Corrections and Missouri citizens.

September 2009 State Employee of the Month

Sergeant Chris Harris– Department of Public Safety



Governor Nixon [center] recognizes Sgt. Chris Harris as the September State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family members and co-workers.

Sgt. Harris patrols Missouri's highways enforcing the laws which protect the safety of travelers along Missouri's streets and roadways. This past May Sgt. Harris demonstrated exceptional bravery and courage in a very dangerous situation. While getting his patrol car serviced at Troop F Headquarters he overheard radio communication regarding an individual who had made threats against public officials. It was determined the suspect was in the local area riding a motorcycle and was armed with several weapons. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sgt. Harris responded to the call. While en route overheard radio communication the suspect had been sighted on a motorcycle and gunshots had been fired. Sgt. Harris joined pursuing law enforcement offices at the junction of U.S. 50 and U.S. 63 headed towards Jefferson City. Shortly after joining the pursuit Sgt. Harris learned a patrol

car which had been struck by gunfire and immediately observed the car in the middle of U.S. – Sgt. Harris immediately requested an ambulance be dispatched to the area and continued the pursuit.

Realizing the danger the suspect presented to officers and the public, Sgt. Harris decided that the suspect had to be stopped as quickly as possible. He radioed the other pursuing highway patrol officer and communicated information about the best and safest way to stop him. However, as they were approaching the motorcycle, it was noted the suspect had a gun in his left hand making it extremely dangerous to approach on this side. Sgt. Harris took over as primary pursuit vehicle on the suspect's right and realized he would be in the best position to take action against the suspect. The pursuit was traveling in speeds of excess of 70 miles per hour and was quickly approaching the city limits of Jefferson City. Continually assessing the crisis, Sgt. Harris determined the best location on U.S. 50 which allowed for the safest and most rapid stop. He then used the front of his patrol car to collide with the rear of the motorcycle to end the pursuit. The suspect fell off the motorcycle and before officers could reach him, ended his own life. During the investigation it was found that the suspect had numerous weapons, and over 700 rounds of ammunition for the weapons. Throughout the situation Sgt. Harris continually looked for ways to end this critical incident and keep the public safe. By placing his own life at risk Sgt. Harris potentially saved other officers or civilians from injury or death.

October 2009 State Employee of the Month

Craig Singletary – Department of Social Services



Governor Nixon [center] recognizes Craig Singletary as the October State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are Mr. Singletary's wife and sons.

As an Investigator II with the Department of Social Services Legal Division, Agent Singletary conducts investigations relating to suspected violations, fraud, forgery, theft, and/or assaults. In his first year with the Department Agent Singletary singlehandedly took on a childcare case that normally would have been assigned to the entire investigation unit. This particular day care case was exceedingly difficult as several of employee's and family members were involved in the fraud. The fraud scheme being committed involved a mother and son team who were the owner/ operator of a child care facility in which they solicited homeless clients from several area homeless shelters for the purpose of enrolling their children into the facility. The son would inform the clients he would hire them to work for his fictitious janitorial company as well as employing them to work at the childcare facility. He also enrolled some of the clients into yet another fictitious GED program to enable the clients to be eligible for state sponsored child care. The son verified school attendance and/or employment with his

fictitious companies by faxing letters to Family Services Division caseworkers and also submitted falsified attendance records to the state indicating services were provided for children who had not attended the childcare facility for several weeks. In yet another instance, Agent Singletary was able to determine that on several occasions, mother and son had bribed some of the clients with cash to sign childcare attendance sheets. During the course of the investigation, Agent Singletary uncovered additional fraud being committed by another family member who also owned and operated a separate day care. This family member failed to report her childcare income and other resources while receiving food stamps. This fraud incident resulted in an overpayment of \$10,000; and the investigation involving the mother/son team resulted in an overpayment of \$117,000. This one investigation alone involved interviewing 30 to 40 households; extensive research of facts and data relating to the fictitious companies; long hours of field work observing the comings and goings of employees at the daycare alleged to be open 24 hours a day; working with FSD caseworkers, city and county officials; and all the supporting documentation.

Agent Singletary's relentless work on this investigation uncovered \$127,000 in fraud and the case has been presented and accepted by the St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney and is now pending a trial date.

November 2009 State Employee of the Month Sergeant Brett Barnes – Department of Natural Resources



Governor Nixon recognizes Sgt. Brett Barnes as the November State Employee of the Month.

As a Park Ranger for the Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, Sergeant Brett Barnes daily enforces Missouri state laws and state park rules and regulations by use of citations, warnings, and custodial arrests. In addition he prepares criminal cases for prosecution; makes court appearances; reports final case dispositions; and assists preparation for court appearances. Another aspect of his duties is planning and coordination of law enforcement services at special events and activities, and it was during the “Crusin’ on the Katy Trail” Bike Ride this past June where Sgt Barnes demonstrated an exceptional level of planning and coordination abilities.

Over 300 riders participated at this event which encompassed 225 miles over a 5 day period. Sgt. Barnes participated in all of the planning meetings leading up to the event, which required numerous 170 mile roundtrips in the evening, he also was in frequent contact with local law enforcement officials of communities along the route to plan traffic control and nighttime security for the ride participants. In addition, Sgt. Barnes also arranged an organized crossing of Highway 19 in Hermann and an escorted bridge crossing over the Missouri River in Jefferson City during the heavy morning commute.

Distances of over 60 miles were required the first and second day of the event, and with temperatures spiking into the upper 90’s dozens of riders were not able to complete the circuit. Sgt. Barnes initiated efforts to locate each exhausted and stranded rider as expediently as possible and was able to successfully recover each rider. Additionally there were numerous medical emergencies that required transportation and treatment. Sgt. Barnes consistently met each emergency with a cool demeanor and located and transported many riders himself and worked with other rangers to insure all riders were accounted for on a daily basis. Sgt. Brett Barnes highly visible gracious and responsive treatment of all participants and staff resulted in a successful event and the Department received many compliments about the ride and treatment of all involved. Missouri’s citizens and the Department of Natural Resources are well served by Sgt. Brett Barnes.

December 2009 State Employee of the Month Dante Gliniecki – Department of Public Safety



Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Dante Gliniecki as the December State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are co-workers and friends

In his position as Statewide Volunteer Coordinator for the Dept. of Public Safety’s State Emergency Management Agency [SEMA], Dante Gliniecki serves as the lead contact between SEMA, local government and private/volunteer agencies involved in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities and ensures compliance with applicable federal and state laws statewide. Dante is also responsible for coordinating an array of services provided by such entities as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, as well as faith based organizations. In addition to his day-to-day duties, over the past several months Dante has spearheaded three different initiatives that should result in assistance to citizens of Missouri adversely affected by disasters.

Dante is SEMA’s representative on the Governor’s Faith Based and Community Disaster and Relief Partnership, which was designed to grow involvement in disaster response by the faith based community.

Mr. Gliniecki also accepted the leadership role for responsibility of a 12 million dollar grant for long term recovery from the 2008 floods. He has coordinated hiring case

managers and provided guidance in establishing polices and procedure for construction and repair of properties not covered by the Stafford Act recover projects [see attached information regarding the Stafford Act].

Dante was also the guiding force in establishing one of the first, if not the only, Mass Care Conference. Using funds from the Central United States Earthquake Consortium and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Gliniecki built a conference from the ground up. This conference was designed to help jurisdictions and volunteer agencies build capacity for mass sheltering, feeding, and other services needed during a catastrophic event.

During activation of the Emergency Operation Center you will find Dante at its heart; brining the volunteer organizations to the table, cataloging their assets and insuring that all come together to meet the needs of the survivors of the disaster. Dante Gliniecki is without a doubt one of Missouri’s most valuable assets.