



2014 Missouri State Employees of the Month

January 2014 State Employees of the Month

Corporal Lance DeClue and Lieutenant Justin McCullough – Department of Public Safety – Missouri State Highway Patrol



Above [center] Governor Nixon awards Corporal Lance DeClue and Lieutenant Justin McCullough as the January State Employees of the Month. Also pictured are family, friends, and co-workers.

Corporal Lance DeClue and Lieutenant Justin McCullough are employed by the Dept. of Public Safety within the Missouri State Highway Patrol. On a daily basis Corporal DeClue and Lieutenant McCullough provide vital services to the citizens of Missouri, but on August 6, 2013 they took their responsibilities to a higher level.

While on patrol that day Corporal DeClue and Lieutenant McCullough responded to a low water area along Mitchell Creek in Waynesville Missouri where a Fort Leonard Wood Fire and Rescue boat had capsized in the rushing water. Lance and Justin launched a Patrol boat and observed two Fort Leonard Wood firefighters on top of a shed that had washed into a utility pole guide wire and another victim, who had sustained a broken leg in the incident, holding a small child in the water also clinging to the same guide wire.

Corporal DeClue maneuvered the Patrol boat into a position for rescue and retrieved the child, and returned to rescue the injured civilian and then the firefighters. After taking them to safety, they returned to the raging waters and motored downstream where they found two additional victims who were, at that time, being assisted by another Fort Leonard Wood fire/rescue responder who had entered the water to help hold up both victims heads out of the water and had been in the water with the victims for approximately 30 minutes prior to the rescue from Corporal DeClue and Lieutenant McCullough.

While in the process of rescuing one of the victims the Highway Patrolmen experienced motor failure with their Patrol boat; the boat washed downstream, along with much debris [propane tanks, limbs, etc.] until Corporal DeClue and Lieutenant McCullough were able to secure the Patrol boat to a concrete wall and gave the first rescued victim to waiting emergency personnel along the water's edge. They ran back upstream, found and launched another Patrol boat, returned to rescue the second victim, and then returned again and rescued the Fort Leonard Wood fire/rescue responder.

Corporal DeClue and Lieutenant McCullough are truly heroes and are assets not only to the Department of Public Safety/Missouri State Highway Patrol, but also to the citizens of Missouri they serve.

February 2014 State Employees of the Month

Dave Winship - Department of Transportation



Above [center] Governor Nixon recognizes Dave Winship as the February State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family, friends, and co-workers.

Dave Winship works for the Missouri Department of Transportation as a Senior Maintenance Worker in the Kansas City area working to assure roadways are kept clear to provide safe travel for. Recently while treating highways with salt during the winter storm in December, Dave found himself in a unique position to do a little more than usual to help a motorist in need.

Mr. Winship had just driven across US Highway 69 Bridge over southbound Interstate 29 in Clay County around 3:00 pm when he saw smoke rising over the side of the guardrail. He pulled his snowplow over to investigate and discovered a vehicle down the embankment resting on the driver side, against some trees with some coming from the vehicle. No emergency responders were on the scene and Dave could hear someone calling for help from inside the

vehicle. Dave called 911, and determined he had to get the motorist out, but because the doors were locked and the vehicle was on its side, he had to get creative. The vehicle was a convertible and Dave had a pocket knife; he cut a slit in the top, and made a hole large enough to pull the motorist from the vehicle with emergency responders arriving shortly after. After turning care of the motorist over to the responders Dave left to continue driving his route to help ensure other motorists could get to their destinations safely.

Dave says incidents like this are unusual, but being prepared to whatever may come your way is always important; Dave said "I'm just glad I was there to help, it was a blessing all around. Mr. Dave Winship is a great example of the caliber of people who work for the Dept. of Transportation and a valuable asset to all Missouri citizens.

March 2014 State Employees of the Month

Shelby McCarty - Department of Social Services, Family Support Division



Above [right] Governor Nixon awards Shelby McCarty as the March State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family, friends, and co-workers.

Shelby McCarty, a Senior Office Support Assistant works the front window and the switchboard at the Dept. of Social Services' Family Support Division, and you could ask anyone from those attending meetings and trainings at Howerton, to the guys making daily deliveries, that you couldn't ask for a better face for the agency. Shelby recently went the extra mile by providing for others in need.

It started with an initiative for a "mitten tree". When Shelby saw a need in the community for area school children without hats and gloves she immediately organized a drive to help meet this need. Shelby purchased a Christmas tree through a silent auction and set up the tree up by her desk. Personally Shelby brought in numerous donations, and her giving spirit caught on. Thanks to Shelby's caring spirit, there will be many warmer area children this winter.

Another example of her dedication was shown when Shelby received a call from a frantic citizen the last week before Christmas for help her children. As Shelby was aware that all area agencies had already adopted children, Shelby took it upon herself to tell the mother she would find help. Not only did Shelby start an effort to assure these children had a Christmas, she also provided numerous donations herself, and arranged for the mother to come pick up the donations. Without Shelby's initiative, these children would not have had a happy holiday.

Shelby's work responsibilities generally stop with the front desk. However, in the above situations Shelby went out of her way to obtain a tree and donations to assure that area children and families in need were taken care of. This definitely took extra effort and showed that Shelby's drive and initiative are truly a key part in making the agency successful. In addition it's key to remember that when the mittens and hats were provided to the area school systems they were presented as a gift from the Family Support Division, and when the young mother who contacted the agency for assistance, the help she received reflected directly back to the agency. Shelby McCarty is a true picture of what the Department of Social Services is all about, and is a proven asset to the Department and Missouri's citizens.

April 2014 State Employees of the Month

Troopers Joseph Palmer and Brooks Pratt -Department of Public Safety, Missouri State Highway Patrol/Troop E



Above [center] Governor Nixon awards Troopers Joseph Palmer and Brooks Pratt as the April State Employees of the Month. Also pictured are family, friends, and co-workers.

Daily the Missouri State Highway Patrol strives to ensure the safety of all travelers on Missouri roads, but this past winter Troopers Joseph Palmer and Brooks Pratt went above the call of duty by risking their personal safety to assist a motorist.

On Christmas Eve Trooper Joseph Palmer responded to a single vehicle accident on Route E, in New Madrid County. Upon arriving he found a passenger car had traveled off the right side of the roadway and overturned in a water-filled drainage ditch. The ambient air temperature was 25 degrees and the water temperature was near freezing. The vehicle had overturned and come to rest on its top at a depth of eight feet with the driver trapped inside. Trooper Palmer entered the water and dove to the vehicle to find the passenger compartment filled with water. He attempted to open both front doors but was unsuccessful and could not even break a window. He exited the water to notify Troop E Radio of the situation.

A short time later Trooper Brooks Pratt arrived on the scene to assist. Both Troopers entered the water and dove to the vehicle, but again were unsuccessful at gaining access to the inside of the vehicle to free the driver. Another Trooper arrived on the scene and requested a first responder to utilize their personal truck to pull the submerged vehicle out of the water. Trooper Palmer again dove to the vehicle and secured a tow rope to the undercarriage, but the truck was not able to pull the vehicle far enough out of the water to free the driver. Shortly after a tow truck arrived on the scene but when attempting to pull the car out of the water the tow strap broke leaving the car still submerged. Trooper Pratt re-entered the water and began hitting the driver side door window with a baton but was still not successful in freeing the driver. The tow truck again tried to pull the car free and was able to winch the vehicle halfway out of the water; at this point the driver's door was able to be opened. Trooper Pratt along with a New Madrid Deputy entered the water and began pulling the driver from the vehicle and onto land; however paramedics on the scene were unsuccessful in reviving the driver.

Troopers Palmer and Pratt made numerous attempts to save the life of this driver by entering near freezing water with ambient air temperature of 25 degrees. Both officers were on-duty and "performed an extraordinary act of heroism by extending far and beyond the call of duty in a situation demanding immediate action and involving considerable personal danger" to themselves. Missouri citizens are well served by these heroic Troopers and are a true asset to the Department of Public Safety.