

## **GERALD FOREE AWARD**

### **Purpose:**

To recognize an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) in honor of Gerald Foree, a Region 4 OSC who represented EPA with enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication. The criterion below exemplifies the accomplishments and personal characteristics of Gerald Foree.

### **Eligibility requirements:**

- Any current "pre-designated" On-Scene Coordinator
- All grade levels up to GS-15

### **Criteria:**

1. Demonstrates genuine concern for public health and the environment by listening, talking and interacting with individuals and communities about response issues and controversial topics where there has been considerable adversity.
2. Demonstrates the ability to work with people, both within and outside of EPA, on a day-to-day basis, in a manner that fosters cooperation, understanding and resolution of complex environmental problems.
3. Exhibits effectiveness, teamwork and cheerfulness by the ability to work with diverse stakeholders without losing sight of overall program objectives.
4. Serves as a catalyst for action by exhibiting a willingness to take risks by tackling difficult problems.
5. An enthusiastic approach to preparedness, prevention, and response programs.
6. A personal and professional demeanor that encourages fellow responders to aspire to a higher standard.

### **Type of Award:**

This is an annual award for a very special person. There is no money associated with this award, but it carries the respect of co-workers and esteem of peers because of the individual it represents. A profile is provided below in an attempt to show you Gerald Foree, as a truly unique individual, a jovial individual always in a positive state of mind, who loved life and infected all of us around him with his humor and good nature approach to all things.

### **Nomination Process:**

Nominations should be submitted by OSCs or Removal Managers. Nominations must be submitted before December 15, 2008, of each year to a designated representative of the EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The current point of contact is Roberta Runge, EPA OEM. Nominations will be collected and provided to the OSC Readiness Task Force for a final decision on the award recipient. The award will be presented during the Monday morning opening plenary session at the annual OSC Readiness Training Program. The recipient will receive a plaque commemorating this peer and response program recognition. Furthermore, a plaque will be displayed in the Headquarters Emergency Operations Center that lists the names of award recipients, with an additional name being added each year

### **Profile of Gerald Foree as described by his co-workers:**

- Gerald was a pleasure to work with, always in a positive state of mind, loves life and infects those around him with humor and a good natured approach to all things.
- The enthusiasm and caring which Gerald brought to the workplace encourages fellow employees to do their best. He was a leader by example.
- Colleagues looked to Gerald for advice and guidance which was given generously. He had the respect of his/her peers.
- Gerald had a sense of direction which results in the ability to make complicated issues simple and identify problems that need correction.
- Careful analysis and gentle persuasion were Gerald's approach to resolving conflicts. His quick wit was always available and used appropriately.
- Gerald had the strength of character to recognize a job well done by others. He looked for the best in people, but was resolute in his characterization when he found worse.
- There are other people who are known for their abilities and accomplishments but Gerald had something extra -- that special quality that is not easy to define.
- Gerald experienced the disappointments and frustration that every human being encounters each day, but every job he faced with quiet confidence and resolve without complaint.
- Gerald had a smile for everyone he worked with and approached everything in such a positive way; you couldn't help but listen to him and appreciate his natural ability to get along with people.
- He spent time his time as a co-worker, leader, friend and mentor to many individuals. His presence was always felt and his opinions were always known.

### **Do you know a Gerald Foree Award candidate?**

EPA is fortunate to have many employees who meet the official six point criteria for this award. While the focus is on service in the past calendar year, the overall body of work may be considered. However, the ultimate reason that prompted Gerald's coworkers to campaign for its establishment was his attitude towards life that was reflected in how he did his job.