

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

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Winona Community Leader Receives Award from Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

James Eddy of Winona, Minn. has received the River Guardian Award from the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge it was announced today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Eddy, 75, was honored for his many years of service with the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges, a citizen support group which raises funds for projects, does advocacy for the refuge, and provides volunteer assistance on numerous habitat and public use projects.

Eddy served as president of the group from 2001 until stepping down as president this month. He will remain active on the Friends board of directors.

During his tenure, Eddy provided steady leadership to the group, especially during the often contentious years when the refuge prepared its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. He also was tireless in his efforts to inform members of Congress and the media about the values and needs of the refuge.

“Jim is one of those selfless people of energy you could always count on to get the job done,” according to Refuge Manager Don Hultman. “If there was a refuge-sponsored event, Jim would always be there whether it was a kid’s fishing day, tree planting, or a river clean-up.”

Eddy is no stranger to the Winona community. He was a professor of political science at Winona State University from 1965 until his retirement in 1995. He is currently on the board of directors for the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, and is president or “Top Devil Dog” of the Hiawatha Valley Marines which sponsors the successful “Toys for Tots” program each Christmas.

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Born in Howard Lake, Minn., Eddy attended St. John's University and received his PhD from the University of Oklahoma. He was on active duty with the Marines from 1953-56 and served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1966-78, attaining the rank of major.

The River Guardian Award recognizes citizens who have demonstrated outstanding actions in the service to people and/or the resources of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The award is presented irregularly at the discretion of the refuge manager.

In addition to being the most visited refuge in the country, the "Upper Miss" Refuge has the added complexity of a major navigation system, including 11 locks and dams, within its boundary. It is also a world-class fish and wildlife area which harbors 306 species of birds; 119 species of fish; about 200 active bald eagle nests; thousands of heron and egret nests; spectacular concentrations of canvasback ducks, tundra swans, and white pelicans; and several threatened or endangered species.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [HTTP://www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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