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PRESS RELEASE

Eastern National Announces 2014 Award Winners

Annual Awards Highlight Excellence in Performance and Partnership

FORT WASHINGTON, PA, March 16, 2015: Eastern National (EN), a not-for-profit cooperating association with the National Park Service, is proud to announce the winners of its annual awards for 2014. The awards program was designed to acknowledge outstanding individual achievements and contributions that have had a positive impact on an EN operation or an individual park, thus furthering and promoting EN's unique relationship with its partners. Nominees were submitted by EN managers in November 2014.

The **Charles S. Marshall Unit Award** was presented to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park for exceptional teamwork and cooperation during the park's commemorative anniversary events, and \$2,500 will be donated by EN to the park's interpretive program. Each year, the Unit Award recognizes the most outstanding agency that has achieved noteworthy teamwork in promoting and aiding the historical, scientific, educational, interpretive, and operational activities of EN partners through EN agency operation. Teamwork is evidenced through agency growth, visitor service, product development, partner relations, and administration.

Superior Performance Awards recognize outstanding partner management of an EN agency. They are awarded annually to the top four outstanding partner personnel, regardless of agency size. Superior Performance Awards were presented to Michael Groomer, Chief of Interpretation, Fort Smith National Historic Site, for his organizational skills, attention to detail, and assistance with employee training; Laura Henning, Chief of Interpretation, Canaveral National Seashore, for her excellent communication skills, and assistance with the expansion of the store's product line; Linda Cook, Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site, for her assistance in locating and facilitating new products that enhance visitors experiences; and George Price, Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore, for his assistance and support during the transition of the Highland Lighthouse to EN.

The **Herbert E. Kahler Award** recognizes the EN partner judged to have cooperatively managed the most efficient and innovative agency. The winner is selected by the EN Board of Directors from the four Superior Performance Award winners. The Kahler Award was presented to George Price, Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore.



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(Continued)*

Special Achievement Awards recognize exceptional performance in the area of store operations and partner relations. Awards were presented to the following EN employees: Dan Beard, Unit Manager, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, for his leadership during the park's anniversary and exceptional teamwork with park staff and other partners; Joe Napurano, Unit Manager, Thomas Edison National Historical Park and Morristown National Historical Park, for his innovative merchandising and product development, and outstanding level of support to the park; Liz Linehan, Unit Manager, Boston National Historical Park, for her excellent customer service and merchandising skills; Becky Burke, Regional Manager, Southeast Region, for her exceptional leadership and organization during Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's anniversary events ; Maria "Angie" Rolon, Unit Manager, San Juan National Historic Site, for her flexibility and dedication during a construction project at the park; Patricia Alcaro, Sales Associate, Gateway National Recreation Area, for her outstanding teamwork with the park and other partners; Acholi Southerland, Unit Manager, Statue of Liberty National Monument, for the development of an internship program for disadvantaged teens; and Dave Hobbs, Unit Manager, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and Old Stone House, for his exceptional dedication, versatility, and attention to detail.

Distinguished Service Awards recognize significant active service at a high level of excellence, that has resulted in substantial contributions to EN. Nominations are submitted by senior management and the EN Board of Directors. A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ethel Austin, Regional Manager, Southern Region.

The **Customer Service Award** was presented to Manassas National Battlefield Park. Each year, this award recognizes the EN store staff with the highest average score in EN's secret shopper program. The program evaluates the overall store appearance, product presentation, and staff professionalism.

Eastern National is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit association that promotes the public's understanding and support of America's national parks and other public trust partners by providing quality educational experiences, products, and services. For more information about Eastern National, its products, or services, visit our website at www.EasternNational.org.

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