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# PRESS RELEASE

## Eastern National Announces 2011 Award Winners

### *Annual Awards Highlight Excellence in Performance and Partnership*

**FORT WASHINGTON, PA, January 20, 2012:** 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 2011. 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 2011, and awards were presented in Memphis, Tennessee on January 19, 2012.

The **Charles S. Marshall Unit Award** was presented to Manassas National Battlefield Park, and \$2,500 will be donated by EN to the park's interpretive program. The Unit Award annually 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** were presented to Patty Wissinger, Superintendent, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; Judy Forte, Superintendent, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site; Shirley McKinney, Superintendent, Manhattan Sites; and Diane Chalfant, Associate Director, Park Operations and Education. Superior Performance Awards annually recognize outstanding partner management of an EN agency. They are awarded to the top four outstanding partner personnel, regardless of agency size.

The **Herbert E. Kahler Award** was presented to Patty Wissinger, Superintendent, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and \$2,500 will be donated by EN to the park's interpretive program in Ms. Wissinger's name. The Kahler Award recognizes the EN partner judged to have cooperatively managed the most efficient and innovative agency. The winner was selected by the EN Board of Directors from the four Superior Performance Award winners.

**Special Achievement Awards** were presented to the following EN employees: Lana Samuels, Wilsons' Creek NB; James "Adam" Webster, Fort Sumter NM; Larry Swanson, Manassas NBP; Brenda Starr, Manassas NBP; Kathy Rappold, Gulf Islands NS; and Stacy Madalena, National Capital Region. Special Achievement Awards recognize exceptional performance in the area of store operations and partner relations.

The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Anne Harris, Virginia Region, for her significant service at a high level of excellence, resulting in substantial contributions to EN and its partners.

In addition to the above mentioned awards, EN presents publications awards annually to recognize outstanding scholarly books or magazine articles which have contributed to the mission of its partners. Publications nominated for the following awards were assessed by a team of National Park Service personnel and the EN Board of Directors.

The **Authors' Award** was presented to Brett W. Spaulding of Monocacy National Battlefield for his publication, *Last Chance for Victory: Jubal Early's 1864 Maryland Invasion*, and a \$1,000 donation to Monocacy National Battlefield will be made by EN in Mr. Spaulding's name. The Authors' Award recognizes an individual who wrote an outstanding monograph, documented with extensive footnotes, that exhibits original research, presents information of interpretive value, is a contribution to the field and reflects high quality of scholarship and readable prose in the field of natural science or history during the current fiscal year.

The **William C. Everhart Award** was presented to Dr. Henry Duffy of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site for *In Homage to Worthy Ancestors: the Puritan/ the Pilgrim*, and a \$1,000 donation to the interpretive program at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site will be made by EN in Dr. Duffy's name. The Everhart Award recognizes the best scholarly work related to national parks. Publications qualifying for nomination may deal with any scholarly research related to national parks and are not limited to history.

**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 trusts by providing quality experiences, educational products and services to the visitors of America's national parks. For more information about Eastern National, its products or services, visit our website at [www.EasternNational.org](http://www.EasternNational.org).**