



NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER FLORIDA HONORS THREE WITH PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

*Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service to be presented at
Volunteer Florida's quarterly Commission meeting. ...*

MIAMI – The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) today announced it will award **three** volunteers with the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, the highest national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service. To qualify for Gold, Silver or Bronze **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS**, volunteers must have logged a specified number of volunteer hours over the course of a 12-month period. To qualify for the lifetime **CALL TO SERVICE AWARD**, volunteers must have logged **4,000** hours over the course of their lifetimes.

The **AWARDS** will be presented at Volunteer Florida's quarterly Commission meeting, to be held Tuesday, Oct 9 at the Conrad Hotel, located at 1395 Brickell Avenue. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time, and the **AWARDS** will be presented at approximately 8:30 a.m.

The outstanding volunteers who will receive this award are:

- **Lifetime Call to Service, Myra Farr.** Myra Farr has been an active force in Miami for 38 years. She is a life member of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation where she serves on the board of directors, and has served on numerous other boards over the course of her lifetime. Her volunteer activities have ranged from board service to mentoring to fundraising.
- **Gold Award, Robin Diaz.** Robin Diaz has volunteered at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park since 2003, and for the past four years has contributed more than 1,400 hours of her time. Robin has diligently been assisting the park biologist in performing bird and butterfly surveys, leading groups of birders from the Tropical Audubon Society, and assisting in a multi-year study of fall bird migration in South Florida.
- **Silver Award, Orlando Caso.** During the 2005 Hurricane Season, Orlando Caso assisted literally hundreds of families by visiting their homes, assessing damage, documenting repair needs, and providing recommendations to ease families' suffering. Orlando also educated "S.T.E.P.S. in the Right Direction," a local nonprofit, about roofing, roof repairs, construction, South Florida building codes and other requirements.

(more)



“These recipients of the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD are role models for all Americans,” said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. “Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others. Through their extraordinary commitment, these volunteers have brought us closer together as families, as communities and as a Nation.”

Established in 2003, the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD – WHICH IS MODELED AFTER THE PRESIDENT’S PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD – is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As a Leadership Organization participating in the AWARD program, **Volunteer Florida** confers the AWARDS to recognize the outstanding achievements of volunteers throughout Florida.

“In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called on every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call,” said Spencer.

The PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the AWARD, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating organizations, such as **Volunteer Florida**, that will verify the service and deliver the AWARD. AWARD eligibility for individuals and groups is based upon hour requirements varying by age.

The AWARD is issued by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our nation. Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer, who is an appointee to the Council, will present the awards on behalf of the Council. Chaired by Case Foundation President **Jean Case**, the Council is comprised of leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits, and the volunteer sector.

For more information on volunteering in Florida, please visit www.volunteerflorida.org.

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, please visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov or call 1-866-545-5307.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youth to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism for disaster preparedness and response; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

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