



NFWF



THE GUY BRADLEY AWARD

2024 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS for State Agency and Federal Agency Wildlife Enforcement Officers to Recognize Outstanding Lifetime Service

NOMINATIONS DUE BY *Friday, January 19, 2024, by 11:59pm Eastern Time*

OVERVIEW

In 1905, a Florida game warden named Guy Bradley became the first wildlife law enforcement agent killed while performing his duties to protect the nation's wildlife. Law enforcement agents like Bradley are essential to virtually every aspect of wildlife conservation, from recovering endangered species to managing waterfowl and big game resources. In honor of Guy Bradley, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established this lifetime achievement award to recognize individuals for their commitment and performance in the field of wildlife law enforcement.

The Guy Bradley Award will be presented to one state agency and one federal agency officer whose dedication and public service to protecting the nation's natural resources demonstrates outstanding leadership, excellence in implementation, knowledge, and actions that have advanced the cause of wildlife conservation.

AWARD

One state and one federal recipient will receive a check for \$2,500 and a commemorative plaque in recognition of their efforts. Recently retired officers and previously nominated officers are eligible to receive this award. In the event that a recipient cannot accept a cash award, as is the case for federal employees, a donation of \$2,500 will be made in the recipient's name to the organization/project of his or her choice.

SPONSORING AGENCY

Agency Name: Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife
Agency Address: #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
Contact Person Name: Major David Marques
Contact Person Email: David.marques@ky.gov
Contact Person Phone: 502-892-4517

NOMINEE'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name: Kenneth Amburgey
Job Title: Captain (Ret.)
Office Address: 10 Patty Lane Mallie, Ky. 41836
Email: kenamburgey@hotmail.com
Phone: (606) 594-2402

NOMINEE'S YEARS OF SERVICE

List relevant job positions the Nominee has held and years in each position. (400 word limit)

Ken Amburgey began his career with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1984 when he was hired as a Wildlife Technician. Ken worked as a Wildlife Tech for two years until moving into the Law Enforcement Division. In 1986, Ken began working as a Conservation Officer in Jessamine County, where he attended 6 weeks of in-house academy training and four weeks at the Kentucky State Police Academy.

In 1989, Ken returned to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky with a transfer to Floyd County, located in the 7th District. After several years of establishing himself as a knowledgeable officer and leader, Ken was promoted to Lieutenant. In 2002, Ken was promoted to the rank of Captain over the 7th District, a leadership position he would maintain until his retirement in 2008.

After his retirement from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ken continued to serve his community, patrolling as a county police officer. He conducted ATV patrols and court security and provided security for special community events.

NOMINEE'S CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Describe in detail the Nominee's notable performance and accomplishments; especially those related to field work. Please provide specific examples, rather than generalities. (500 word limit)

During winter months as a Wildlife Technician, Ken assisted in the trapping and relocation of Wild Turkeys throughout Eastern Kentucky. These efforts to restore the Wild Turkey to areas of the state where biologists had determined there were no or very low numbers were very important. Early trapping and relocation efforts were critical to restoration efforts that today have produced one of the healthiest populations in the history of the Commonwealth.

As a Wildlife Technician, Ken worked in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, building grouse traps in order to trap and relocate grouse. These efforts helped improve the grouse population numbers in the 1990's and 2000's.

Throughout his tenure as a Conservation Officer, Ken received several district awards that included Officer of Year and Shikar Shafar, both highly competitive and sought-after awards.

NOMINEE'S DEMONSTRATION OF OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Describe the Nominee's leadership qualities and instances that best represent them. (400 word limit)

Ken has set a great example for the officers he worked with by his continuous involvement with sportsman groups of all types. Ken has been an active member of the Ruffed Grouse Society, the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Carr Creek Fish and Game Club. His involvement in these organizations set a great example for the younger officers to be involved and to make connections with the community.

NOMINEE'S UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS (GOING ABOVE THE CALL OF DUTY)

Describe how the Nominee has demonstrated exceptional performance beyond the duties required by his/her job. Please provide specific examples, rather than generalities. (400 word limit)

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife was at the forefront of Elk Restoration Efforts in 1997, with the release of Elk into the Eastern Kentucky mountains. Ken assisted in the catching of elk calves for collaring and tracking. These efforts were critical in the data collection for wildlife biologists to track and manage the herd and establish hunting seasons.

Black Bears are an ever-growing nuisance in Eastern Kentucky, and this issue started during Ken's career. Ken would assist the Wildlife Division biologist in trapping and relocating black bears throughout the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

Ken also participated in Geese roundup programs to assist biologists in attaching bands to the geese, an important data collection effort when the bands are reported upon harvest. Ken assisted the fisheries division with several fish stocking and fish shocking surveys on the lakes and streams of Eastern Kentucky.

NOMINEE'S INNOVATION (PROGRAM STARTER)

Describe any programs or projects that the Nominee has initiated or improved. (400 word limit)

As many Conservation Officers experience throughout their careers, the uncertainty of an officer's schedule can wreak havoc on their home life. While we all adapt to it, Ken also believed there was a way to balance the needs of the agency, sportsman, and officer family. As such Ken was at the forefront of developing the original versions of the current work planner used by officers throughout the state. The work schedule format allowed officers to have the same two days off for a two-week period and then rotate for another two-week period. It also allowed officers to build in weekends off into their rotating schedule, which was and is a high morale boost.

NOMINEE'S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Describe how the Nominee is/has been instrumental in initiating or leading efforts to benefit the local community (e.g. public outreach, community engagement, etc). (400 word limit)

Ken has had a lasting influence on the officers after he retired, and the community served throughout his career. His leadership style continued over the years after leaving the law enforcement division. Because of his involvement with local community groups, Ken established a culture of service in the 7th district that continues today. Officers and supervisors care about each other, the citizens they serve, and the resources they protect. This culture has spread across the state as officers from the 7th district were promoted and took positions in other parts of the state.

NOMINEE'S MENTORING ACTIVITIES

Describe the contributions made by the Nominee to peers and junior officers. (400 word limit)

Ken understood the importance of interacting with high school and college students in their community. Giving them the opportunity to recognize the work that Conservation Officers do on a daily basis and what it takes to pursue a career as an officer. These programs were very successful and popular over the years, and several of the students who participated in these programs went on to become Conservation Officers.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE ABOUT YOUR NOMINEE

Please submit any additional documentation you think would strengthen this nomination form in support of the Nominee.

SUBMISSION & SUBMISSION ASSISTANCE

Please fill out this form and email it to AFWA Communications Director, Patricia Allen (pallen@fishwildlife.org).

For more information or questions about this request for nominations, please contact Patricia Allen.