U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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National Weather Service Honors Scott Poese for Outstanding Service to Volunteer Cooperative Weather Observer Program

Recognizing more than 25 years of dedication, NOAA's National Weather Service has named Scott Poese, Cooperative Weather Observer from O'Neill, Nebraska, as a 2012 recipient of the agency's John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer program. The award is the agency's second-most prestigious, and is presented to deserving cooperative weather observers from around the country.

"The weather and climate community is thankful for cooperative observers like Scott Poese, who has been diligently recording observations for the last 25 years," said Ryan Knutsvig, Meteorologist in Charge of NOAA's North Platte National Weather Service office. "Historical weather data has played an important role in comparing the drought of 2012 to other years. If the century-long accumulation of accurate weather observations taken by volunteer observers didn't exist, scientists could not begin to adequately describe the climate of the United States. Also, weather data from cooperative observers has helped produce numerous breakthroughs in the science of weather and climate, which have resulted in an improvement in forecasts and warnings. To show our appreciation for his efforts in observing, we want to recognize Scott for his many years of service."

Ryan Knutsvig, Meteorologist in Charge of the North Platte office, will present the award beginning at 500 PM, during a ceremony being held at the Blarney Stone restaurant, which is located at 432 East Douglas Street in O'Neill. Observing Program Leader Steve Carmel nominated Scott Poese for the Holm Award.

The National Weather Service's Cooperative Weather Observer Program is a unique partnership between the National Weather Service and citizen volunteers in every U.S. state and territory. The cooperative observer program has given scientists and researchers continuous weather data since the program's inception in 1890. Today, more than 11,000 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

Scott Poese assumed the mantle of Cooperative Weather Observer with a service date of July 1, 1987. He has taken and disseminated daily weather observations containing temperature, precipitation, snowfall, and snow depth to the National Weather Service office in North Platte. Site reports have provided important data to NOAA forecasters and hydrologists and climate scientists. Over the years, Scott Poese has

provided approximately 9,205 daily reports to the National Weather Service.

Scott Poese has provided an accurate and complete weather record for the O'Neill area. Scott and KBRX Radio have shown unusual cooperation with the National Weather Service and other officials. Mr. Poese is civic minded and has been involved in the past as president of the Chamber of Commerce. Other involvements include the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration in O'Neill, the O'Neill Community Building committee, and the new O'Neill Community Center.

Staff members at KBRX radio station in O'Neill; have been taking Cooperative Weather observations for over 56 years, or since July 28, 1956.

Long and continuous records provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather, and give climatologists and others a basis for predicting future trends. These data are invaluable for scientists studying floods, droughts and heat and cold waves. At the end of each month, observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center for publication in "Climatological Data" or "Hourly Precipitation Data."

The first extensive network of cooperative stations was set up in the 1890s as a result of an 1890 act of Congress that established the U.S. Weather Bureau. Many of the stations have even longer histories. John Campanius Holm's weather records, taken without benefit of instruments in 1644 and 1645, are the earliest known recorded observations in the United States.

Many historic figures have maintained weather records, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson maintained an almost unbroken record of weather observations between 1776 and 1816, and Washington took weather observations just a few days before he died. The Jefferson and Holm awards are named for these weather observation pioneers.

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On the Web:
NOAA's National Weather Service, North Platte: http://www.weather.gov/lbf