



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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PANDORA, OHIO RESIDENT TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Ray Burkholder of Pandora, Ohio, will receive the Helmut E. Landsberg Award Tuesday June 16, 2009 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) National Weather Service ([NOAA Weather Service](#)) in recognition of his 60 years of service to the agency as a Cooperative Weather Observer. NOAA is an agency of the Commerce Department. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 PM at the Pandora's Lunch Box restaurant in Pandora.

Lynn Maximuk, Director of the NOAA National Weather Service Central Region, will present the award at a family gathering in Pandora.

"Cooperative weather observers provide a valuable service to our agency, our nation and the people who rely on their information. They've given dependable, accurate and timely weather observations that have defined the climate around northwest Ohio since December 1949. We estimate he has taken well over 20,000 observations during his tenure." said Mike Sabones, Meteorologist in Charge of the Northern Indiana NOAA Weather Service Forecast Office that serves northwest Ohio.

Burkholder has received several other NOAA Weather Service cooperative observer honors for length of service and for his contributions to the agency. These include the John Campanius Holm Award in 1976, the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1984, the Stoll Award in 1999, the Environmental Hero award in 2002, and the Benjamin Franklin award in 2004.

The [Cooperative Weather Observer Program](#) was established in the 1890s to provide data to the newly formed Weather Bureau, predecessor to the NWS. Today, the program comprises more than 11,000 volunteer observers, who record temperature and precipitation data daily.

Maximuk noted that Burkholder has distinguished himself by joining such notable American pioneers as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson who maintained early weather records. Jefferson kept an almost unbroken record of observations from 1776 through 1816. Washington took his last weather observations just a few days before he died. This award was created in 1986 in honor of Dr. Helmut E. Landsberg, noted professor, author, and lecturer. He was one of the preeminent climatologists of our time; and was, for a number of years, Director of the NWS Climatology Program, until it was abolished in 1973. This award is presented to all cooperative observers who have completed 60 years of service.

Maximuk also noted, “Burkholder personifies the conscientious and unselfish weather observers imagined by Thomas Jefferson when he envisioned a weather network across the United States. Clearly, he deserves the recognition this award bestows for the life long contribution to the nation’s climate record and this community.”

NWS Northern Indiana’s Observations Program Leader, Brentley Lothamer, said, “Cooperative observers record weather at the same time every day and enter data for temperature, precipitation, snowfall and snow depth. Mr. Burkholder has recorded 60 years of data which are now a permanent part of the nation’s climate record.”

Burkholder has served on the area school board, was president of both the Pandora Medical Center and the Mennonite Disaster Relief Service of Western Ohio. He has supplied many area newspapers with weather data.

Data collected by Burkholder benefits other federal, state, and local agencies including the U. S. Geological Survey, and the U. S. Corp of Engineers which use the information to assist in water management.

The [NOAA National Weather Service](#) is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories and operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy.

[NOAA](#) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

National Weather Service, Northern Indiana Office: <http://crh.noaa.gov/iwx>