

# **THE GREGG B. RISHEL AWARD**

## **Purpose of Award**

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual to hydrologic science and/or service which contribute to the fulfillment of the hydrologic services mission of the National Weather Service (NWS). While primarily oriented toward recognizing the performance of NWS employees, both government and private sector personnel are eligible to receive this award. Nominations will be evaluated twice per year.

The award is named in honor of Gregg B. Rishel, a respected hydrologist. Mr. Rishel made several important contributions to hydrologic mission of the NWS, and was well known for his strong work ethic, passion for hydrology, and commitment to improving hydrologic services.

## **Selection of Award Recipient**

The Director of the NWS Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD) will evaluate candidates and select one award winner. Nominations should not exceed one typed page in length and will be provided to the Chief of the Hydrologic Services Division in OCWWS by the senior Hydrologic Services Manager in each region or the Hydrology Program Coordinator in OHD. While nominations will be invited every six months, the award will be presented only when the OHD Director determines there is a candidate that merits the award for his/her accomplishments during the twelve month period prior to the call for nominations. An individual can receive the award more than once. The award consists of a plaque and will be known as the Gregg B. Rishel Award. The plaque will not be accompanied by any cash award.

Candidates for the Gregg B. Rishel Award will be evaluated based upon accomplishments in one or more of the following areas:

- Developing and/or implementing enhanced forecast and warning tools by novel or innovative uses of technology or science;
- Developing and/or implementing improved data observation, collection, and analysis techniques and/or services;
- Expanding and/or improving flood safety and/or water resources education and outreach;
- Delivering timely and accurate life and/or resource saving operational hydrologic forecasts and/or flood, flash flood, or debris flow warning services;
- Developing plans, policies, or procedures which enhance hydrologic services;
- Establishing and/or improving cooperative efforts with local, state, and federal agencies.

## **Gregg B. Rishel Vita**

Gregg Rishel, Hydrologist-in-Charge of the Northeast River Forecast Center died on September 28, 2006, after battling cancer for several months. He was 52 years old. Gregg's National Weather Service career began in 1985 as the Service Hydrologist in Bismarck, N.D. Gregg then became a hydrologic forecaster at the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center in Harrisburg and State College, Pa., a Service Hydrologist at the Weather Forecast Office in State College, and the Deputy Regional Hydrologist in NWS Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake City. In 2003, he was named Hydrologist-in-Charge of the Northeast River Forecast Center, in Taunton, Mass. Gregg served on a number of national teams during his tenure, most importantly, as the team leader for the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) Product Improvement Team (APIT) which presented its final report in 2003. Gregg greatly expanded AHPS forecasts services and provided outstanding leadership during several significant flood events, particularly during 2005-2006.