

‘They Make City What It Is’

Unsung Civil Servants Cited By 100-Year Association

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‘TREAT PEOPLE AS YOU’D WANT TO BE TREATED’



The Chief-Leader/Michel Friang

‘TREAT PEOPLE AS YOU’D WANT TO BE TREATED’: This newspaper’s publisher, Edward Prial, stands with Police Officer Dawn Townsend, the top prize-winner at the Hundred Year Association’s Public Service Awards, which were held Dec. 21. Ms. Townsend received a \$3,500 award for her 21 years of service in the 73rd Precinct, where she now works as a Community Affairs Officer. ‘You treat people how you would like to be treated,’ she said. ‘The best part is being able to give service and work situations out.’

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By DAVID SIMS |

Ten outstanding civil servants were honored Dec. 21 at the annual Public Service Awards of the Hundred Year Association, which gave out \$17,500 in cash prizes to city employees, with another \$27,000 in academic scholarships going to the children of civil servants.

“These are not household names, but their names are well-known today,” said Deputy Mayor for Operations Caswell Holloway, the keynote

speaker at the event, which took place at One Police Plaza. Mayor Bloomberg was also in attendance.

Cop 'Bridges the Gap'

The top prize-winner was Police Officer Dawn Townsend, who received \$3,500 from this newspaper for her 21 years of service in Brooklyn's 73rd Precinct. She has worked as a Community Affairs Officer for the past seven years, covering the neighborhoods of Ocean Hill and Brownsville.

"I always say it's like customer service," she said in an interview. "The biggest thing for me is trying to bridge this gap between the community and the Police Department. I've been with the department for 21 years, I've done domestic violence, I was a youth officer, and I was in patrol. I'm happy to be where I'm at now."

Ms. Townsend also volunteers in her off-hours, working at a women's empowerment group that provides education opportunities, access to family planning, and domestic-violence resources.

She also works with the Brownsville Partnership and other community organizations to provide job training and readiness, and teaches dance classes at the Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The key to her job is simple, she said. "You treat people how you would like to be treated. The best part is being able to give service and work situations out."

Preserving City's Wetlands

Marit Larson, the Deputy Director of Wetlands and Riparian Restoration in the Parks Department, received \$2,500 from the Bank of New York Mellon. She has worked at the department for 10 years to maintain and preserve the city's wetlands in places like the Bronx River, Alley Pond Park, Pelham Bay Park, Jamaica Bay and parts of Staten Island.

"We work with different agencies to make sure that we are protecting our resources," she said. "Any activities that involve moving ground, we try to make sure the other agencies are cognizant of the resources we're trying to protect. Also, we go out and seek a lot of grant money to try and build new wetlands and try and restore the wetlands we have."

She said that she enjoyed bringing attention to a less-known part of the city's parkland. "We partner with a lot of public-stewardship organizations that do more of the outreach; we're doing more of the technical work. But we're trying to build up that knowledge and understanding, particularly in agencies that might not have it," she said.

Other winners included Vincent Rosati, an Emergency Medical Service Captain in the Fire Department, who received \$2,500 from John Gallin & Son. A longtime member of the EMS division, he is responsible for absence control, timekeeping and payroll for 800 employees. He previously was the commanding officer of various ambulance stations throughout the city.

A Trainer in AIDS Unit

William Millan, a Director of Training at the Human Resources Administration, received \$2,000 directly from the Hundred Year Association, which is made up of city businesses that are at least a century old. A 30-year veteran of the agency, he trains those in the HIV-AIDS Services Administration and uses his own professional video equipment to tape training videos and to help with outreach and referral.

Christopher Vallozzi, a Carpenter with the Parks Department, received \$2,000 from James Thompson & Company. Working at the Parks Marina Division, he was responsible for the upgrade of the 3,500 linear fleet of floating docks in the 79th Street Boat Basin, and developed a more-robust ice-protection system to help protect the year-round boating community.

The other winners were Bernadette Delany, a Social Services Supervisor in the Department for the Aging; Jacqueline Dowd, a School Safety Agent at P.S. 369 in Brooklyn; Walter Maxwell, the Director of External Affairs at the Department of Small Business Services; Thomas Mitchell, a School Safety Agent at Manhattan North Command; and Doris Rojas, an Assistant Coordinating Manager at the Health and Hospitals Corporation. All received prizes of \$1,000.

Scholarship Winners

The College Scholar Award winners were Stephanie Guevara, Sarah Bauch, Ariel Elyahu, Arielle Mauge, Michelle Urman, Desiree Daring, Riddi Doshi, Xavier Brissett, Jordan Glassberg, Scott Gordon, Matthew Kugler, Melissa Liriano, Bryant Ly, Jennifer Murdock and Victoria Ng.

Department of Citywide Administrative Services Commissioner Edna Wells Handy presided over the awards, with both the Mayor and Mr. Holloway giving speeches.

“Let this honor be a reminder to you and your families that we all depend on you,” the Mayor said in his remarks. “I always look forward to coming here and sharing with people who make this city what it is.”

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