

30 YEAR AWARD CEREMONY 4/26/13 Wednesday

George I regret not being there to congratulate you in person for your time in service. George has distinguished himself in the agency and across the turtle world for assembling a time series for Hawaiian turtles that uses stranding, nesting and ocean capture data that is recognized internationally (and is being used a model for future work in the Western Pacific with a variety of species).

Because of his expertise, collaborations and publications he is routinely called on to advise on turtle projects and address turtle issues. He serves on the sea turtle advisory committee for the council, was one of the first members of the NMFS IACUC process and is currently a member of the national status review team for Hawaiian green turtles. He works with an impressive cross section of the community and as a result is one of the center's most recognized researchers. We can be confident that regardless of his time in service he will always be enthusiastic about the turtles he studies. Congratulations George. - Frank

For over a decade, the Ecosystems & Oceanography Division has been engaged in a very enjoyable and productive collaboration with George and his team on pelagic sea turtle ecology. This work produced over a dozen papers that have advanced our understanding of the migration and habitat of loggerhead sea turtles and contributed to a reduction in fisheries interactions with these turtles. However, as George often says, it's not about the turtles but the people and EOD staff couldn't agree more. Collaborating with George and his team was a joy. - Jeff P

George has brought a "passion" for the love of turtles to his job -- not something to take lightly in federal service ... and its an unwavering passion that he's maintain over the decades he's been here. He's been an ambassador locally, nationally, and internationally; building partnerships everywhere he's been. This can be evidenced by his extensive bibliography where his co-authors literally span the globe. He's built capacity (often single-handedly) throughout the remote regions of the Pacific that's expanded awareness of sea turtle biology and ecology amongst the diverse cultures. -Mike

Annual AWARD CEREMONY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

(131)

4/25/2013

STATEMENT for 30 years Service

Thursday

Read by Siri

DOLE STREET OUTSIDE

Need buy a plaque for Spandell "Employee of the Year" 2012

If I've done so well, why am I being directed out? My 30-year Service Certificate:

RE: The intellectual property of my research arena
LAW: RE - backing data got of Ms. Allowed to proceed - Signed by Frank, but never showed to me

Words of Praise By Sam Pooley, Mike Seki
Words read by Siri from ① Frank ② JEFF POLOVIN A

Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2013 19:59:40 -1000 (HST)
From: George H. Balazs <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>
To: Siri Hakala <Siri.Hakala@noaa.gov>
Subject: 30-year Center employee Very Touched

Dear Siri, thank you again for the message you delivered today, I was touched by the expression- yes, the words were very kind and humbling. But the *delivery* of the words by you is what touched me the deepest. When your time allows please would you send me the page you read from. Kindly, George

see p. 133

George Balazs is a living, breathing Sea Turtle Conservation Icon. Simply put, the world is a much better place thanks to his long legacy of sea turtle

research and conservation, and his steadfast commitment to educating colleagues and students throughout the Pacific region. It's an honor to call George Balazs my colleague and friend. -Sincerely, Jeff Seminoff

(I received this last statement from Jeff after the ceremony so wasn't able to read it)