

## Introduction

In 2009, the South Florida Water Management District (District) proudly celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> year of service. To underscore that remarkable history of excellence, we are formally honoring a select group of former employees who – through their dedication, performance or accomplishments – have made significant contributions towards the success of the agency.

## John Adams

In alphabetical order, the first former employee being honored today who contributed substantially to the reputation and honor of the District and performed loyally and faithfully throughout his years of service is John Adams. John, please join me and our Governing Board Members up front as your name is called, and please remain here until all presentations are completed.

John was selected for the Distinguished Former Employee award by staff members who nominated him because they respected his years of diligent and highly effective service in District field operations and maintenance. Due to John's hands-on leadership style, he gained an almost encyclopedic knowledge of District operations. He is still known today as the "go-to" guy for information and advice in the design, construction and operation of the District's critical flood control facilities. His loyalty to staff was demonstrated time and again, and he showed extraordinary dedication to his fellow co-workers following Hurricane Andrew in 1992 by taking on additional duties at the Homestead Field Station to ensure that they had time to rest and rebuild. In his time at the District, he served in many key roles including service at the Homestead Field Station, West Palm Beach Field Stations, Field Operations North, Field Operations South and oversight of Field Operations.

Thomas D. Fontaine, Ph.D.

Next, is Tom Fontaine. Tom, please join us up front.

Staff members nominated Tom for this award because of their respect for your leadership role in strengthening the District's capability to apply cutting-edge science to significant challenges, including the development of storm water treatment areas to remove phosphorus. You placed an emphasis on the connectedness of the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades-Florida Bay system and brought that perspective to the forefront as Director of Everglades Research. During your time with the District, you also developed an integrated research plan that is still used to set hydrologic criteria for wading birds, plants, soil and salinity in Florida Bay and the Everglades; you led the science that resulted in the 10 parts per billion (ppb) phosphorus threshold rule; and made many more lasting contributions that have helped to advance the District's rigorous scientific and modeling approach to problem solving.

You too contributed substantially to the reputation and honor of the District and performed loyally and faithfully throughout your years of service.

## Robert Hamrick

Next is “Bob” Hamrick. Bob, it would be our pleasure if you would also join us up at the front.

Bob Hamrick began his employment at the District in February 1960. Staff members respected your futuristic and visionary efforts on behalf of the agency.

Just to name a few, Bob introduced new technologies including advanced circuitry for hydrologic modeling and the first mainframe and desktop computers to the District. Bob was definitely a man of “Vision” and “Firsts”.

You were admired for your logic, wisdom and a disposition that helped to point the District toward the future and encouraged the development of the employees who would step forward into that future. In your time with the District, you led the way in creating the first Water Resources Division and hiring a bevy of talented people to serve within it.

You have created a positive legacy during your time with the District.

## James B. Jackson

“J.B.”, come on down!

“J.B.” as he is affectionately known to many of his friends at the District, joined us in 1966 in the Operations and Maintenance Department.

Staff members respected his demonstrated ability to undertake major challenges and implement workable solutions. In his time with the agency, he was instrumental in the development of District primary water canal systems and infrastructure improvements. He participated in fashioning the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972, which was the foundation for creating the state’s five water management districts. “J.B.” led the District’s effort to construct a new water pipeline from Florida City to Key West, ensuring a reliable source of drinking water in the Florida Keys. His leadership was instrumental in the success of the Everglades Nutrient Removal project, the first full-scale Everglades restoration initiative. “J.B.” also served in several key management roles including Director of Resource Management and Director of Operations and Maintenance.

His soft, country gentleman style, is still evident today as it was for so many of his working years.

## Richard Rogers

This award is being given posthumously. Mr. Rogers' wife and lovely daughter are here to acknowledge his accomplishments and accept the award.

Maryann and Sherri, will you please join the group up front in order that we can share the story of your late husband and father.

Richard Rogers was nominated for this award by staff members who respected his pioneering efforts in regulation and planning. He is remembered for promoting integrated water management, writing the first regional surface water management criteria and water use manuals, and implementing the District's first regulatory program. A Planning Department and Everglades Protection Office were also established during his time with the District. Additionally, he was instrumental in advancing the careers of the first women who held professional roles at the District, and a conference room in this building was named in his honor after he left us for a higher calling.

Mr. Rogers is fondly remembered by so many employees and we are so pleased to add his name to the engraved plaque of Distinguished Former Employees that is proudly displayed on the gallery wall of Distinguished Former Employees in this building.