Ronny Lee Honored for Outstanding Service as Volunteer Cooperative Observer

NOAA’s National Weather Service has selected Ronny Lee, a resident of Hightstown, NJ, as a recipient of the 2022 John Campanius Holm Award for distinguished service to the Nation through the Cooperative Observer Program (COOP program). Lee Robertson, Observation Program Leader, will present the award to Mr. Lee during a webinar ceremony to be held on Thursday, October 27 at 1 PM that can be accessed at

Registration URL: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2297904960860370192
Webinar ID: 622-037-835

"Weather observations are the backbone of weather forecast and warning operations. The observations our Cooperative Weather Observers take each day not only enhance our climate history, they also are incorporated into computer model that allow our forecasters to provide accurate forecasts and warnings during severe weather, flooding, and winter storm events. These observers are also our eyes and ears in the field during events, at times providing critical near real-time information," said Philadelphia/Mount Holly WFO Meteorologist-in-Charge Jason Franklin.

Mr. Lee and his family have been reporting daily maximum/minimum temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, and snow depth, in addition to any additional severe weather observations to the National Weather Service since October 1973 when his father Richard started taking observations. Ronny and his family have been dedicated observers for the COOP program for nearly 50 years, all while running the family turkey and produce farm. Ronny have experienced all varieties of severe weather, from heavy rain and flooding, to severe weather and damaging winds, to heavy snow and ice storms. Ronny’s observations provide valuable information for local, state, and national climate records.

The National Weather Service’s Cooperative Observer Program has provided scientists and researchers with vital observational data for more than a century. Today, over 10,000 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily weather observations on temperature, precipitation, snowfall and other hydrological or meteorological data such as evaporation or soil temperature. The U.S. Congress recognized the value of the COOP program and its observers by authorizing improvements to the program through the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-423).
NOAA’s National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. The National Weather Service 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. In partnership with national and local government, members of the weather enterprise, Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors, and academia, the National Weather Service is working to build a more Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at weather.gov and on Facebook.

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