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The Service is honoring civil rights coordinator Doug Gentile as he receives the Meritorious Service Award for nearly 30 years of public service. Doug has worked for the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR); dedicating his entire federal career enforcing civil rights laws and ensuring that Americans are treated equally with regard to public access to government programs and activities. Doug has completed extensive work through increased awareness on developing partnerships with multicultural community groups. He's also worked diligently to help diversify the workforce within the Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI). "Doug is a champion for both conservation and civil rights," said Director Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We are grateful that he is a recipient of the Meritorious Service Award for his commitment to public service throughout the years. We appreciate all Service employees who work to support wildlife conservation and habitat restoration."

Doug has a strong calling to promote environmental justice, connect multi-ethnic communities to environmental disciplines. He believes in enhancing customer service initiatives, empowering employees and family friendly policies. Some of his career highlights include:

- Joining four employee affinity groups within the Department of the Interior to support diversity efforts;
- Conducting demographic analyses of racial/ethnic representation on the federal workforce by using Standard Deviation techniques;
- Providing extensive advocacy in disability access, both as a member of the DOI Disability Rights and Technical Advisory Committee and as an investigator of civil rights concerns across the USA where disability rights were the issue;
- Managing the Service's Combined Federal Campaign for Fiscal Year 2012.

Under Doug's leadership more than \$91,000 was raised by headquartered Service employees for charities across the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

"We are very privileged to have worked with Doug through the years. He is a warrior for the civil rights causes he has worked so tirelessly for," said Assistant Director Hannibal Bolton of the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. "It is a bitter-sweet moment because the WFSR program along with the entire Service family will miss Doug as he retires. We wish him all the best and give him our heartfelt thanks."

Doug is co-founder and co-chair of the Association of Federal External Civil Rights Specialists and Officers; an inter-agency group that represents federal civil rights officers across the USA regarding equal access to programs. He also has a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Organizational Change.

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