

American Institute of Hydrology Founder's Award
Emitt C. Witt, III
Citation Presented by A. Laenen
AIH Annual EC Meeting, Houston, TX
October 2008

This award, established by the American Institute of Hydrology in 1990, is to honor the three founders of AIH, Sandor C. Csallany, Roman Kanivetsky, and Alexander Zaporozec, for their initiative and vision in forming the Institute. The award, consisting of an engraved plaque, is given periodically at the discretion of the Executive Committee to an AIH member for outstanding and dedicated service to the Institute.

Emitt Witt received his BS degree in Environmental Engineering from Old Dominion University, VA, and his MS degree in Aqueous Geochemistry from University of Pittsburgh, PA. Emitt has been a member of these professional organizations: AGU, Society of American Military Engineers, and the Boy Scouts of America. Emitt was certified as a Professional Hydrologist in 2003

From 1980 to the present Emitt has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, specializing in surface water analysis, water quality, sediment chemistry, storm water management, and monitoring network design. He has received numerous USGS special act awards throughout his career; in addition, the 2006 Department of Interior Superior Service Award; the 2007 Society of American Military Engineers, Engineers Make a Difference Award; the 2008 Director's Award, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency; and in 2007 a National Honor Medal for saving another life at own risk to self. In his time with AIH, Emitt has been Chair for the 2004 Annual Meeting and on the Executive Committee and the General Secretary for AIH from 2005 to present.

During Emitt's term as General Secretary, he promoted the establishing of a Hydrologic Technician Division within our Institute, and took responsibility as the chairperson for this endeavor in order to bring it into being. This by itself is a major achievement for our Institute. Emitt brought together professional hydrologists and hydrologic technicians from all over the country and from different areas of experience. He established a working committee to evaluate the certification requirements and to establish the elements for testing. This committee under Emitt's diligent direction, worked to develop guidelines and outlines that were vetted throughout the hydrologic community. We have now begun the charter period for admission to this membership and currently have 20 hydrologic technician members.

In addition, Emitt was effective in rescuing our operation this year from Smyrna and bringing it to Carbondale. During this difficult time, Emitt was there to help with contract negotiation and perseverance to bring our files and belongings from the office in Smyrna after negotiations had broken down. This was done at an enormous inconvenience to him, but was done with great diplomacy and courtesy. This action provided us with records that were invaluable to our operation.

Mr. Witt has only served AIH for a short time, but he has served with vast effect and has instituted measurable improvements in our organization. For his dedicated service to the American Institute of Hydrology, we are pleased to award the Founders Awards to Mr. Emitt C. Witt.