

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Josephine Doherty

Josephine Doherty, ecologist, creative manager of ecological research, and adviser to scientists and administrators, in your long career as public servant, you have contributed greatly to our science and to the Eco-

logical Society. Too few ecologists are aware of the immense influence you have had on the development of ecology and the direction that it has taken during the past 30 years. You have been active in our society since

1957, when you joined the Environmental Biology program, administering grants to support ecological research. In 1965, you were named Executive Secretary of the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the International Biological Program; that assignment was followed by service on other important committees relative to environmental and ecological research. These were as varied as the State Department Task Group on the UN HABITAT Conference, the City of Alexandria Policy Commission, the Environmental Biology Review Panel of the Environmental Protection Agency and the ESA Council.

In 1967, you became Associate Program Director, Environmental Biology, soon to be the Ecosystem Analysis Program, with a major responsibility for support of the US-IBP. A few years later, in 1971, you were named Program Manager for Research Applied to National Needs (RANN) Program in the Division of Environmental Systems and Resources, where you encouraged and coordinated important interdisciplinary projects. This work was interrupted in 1976 by a detail to the State Department, where you were a vital member of the UNESCO, Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), Secretariat. Finally, for three years, you served as Program Manager for Applied Ecology in the Division of Environmental Biology. Your service to NSF was acknowledged in 1964 by an NSF Sustained Superior Service Award and in 1975 by the NSF Special Achievement Award. Throughout this long period of service, you have maintained and enhanced the ideals and substance of ecology, helping it to become the recognized and active scientific discipline we know today.

Thousands of ecologists are indebted to you for your guidance in the various grant and research programs that have transformed our profession. Your broad knowledge of the science, its practitioners, and the institutions involved, led to decisions that helped to shape both the direction and scope of ecology. Throughout, you have quietly encouraged and guided valuable research that has contributed greatly to the national well-being. During your work with RANN and MAB, you continued to influence the direc-



tion of ecological research, in particular in its application to human needs. During the early 1970's, for example, you supported several important interdisciplinary workshops on applications of ecology to global, regional, and urban systems.

On your retirement from NSF, you became Executive Director of The Institute of Ecology, an organization in whose early development you were deeply involved through the administration of planning grants to the ESA Study Committee and later directly to the young Institute. Now, with the passing of TIE, you are tracing its history, recording its successes and deficiencies for the benefit of future efforts. Your career has been one of conscientious service and generous dedication to the needs of ecology and ecologists. For your many efforts, recorded and unrecorded, the Ecological Society honors you with its Distinguished Service Citation.

Written by Forest Stearns
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