Ralph E. Good is the 1989 recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation. With this award the Ecological Society of America recognizes the supremely hard-working and dedicated individuals who enable the Society to function. Professor Good is clearly deserving of this honor and many more. He served the Ecological Society as its Business Manager from 1973 to 1979, on the Council from 1973 to 1983, as AIBS representative from 1980 to 1982, as Vice President from 1981 to 1982, as Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee from 1981 to 1982, and on the Awards Committee from 1985 to 1987. Such activities, although impressive, do not adequately convey the debt the Ecological Society owes to Professor Good for his years of advice and service. Somehow he has also found time to be active in several other professional societies, such as the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Estuarine Research Federation, as well as in ecological research.

Professor Good received his bachelor of science and master’s degrees from the University of Illinois in 1960 and 1961, respectively. He then went to Rutgers University at Camden to do his doctorate work in plant ecology under Professor Murray Buell. After graduation in 1965 he was a faculty member at Queens College of the City University of New York for two years. In 1967 he joined the faculty at Rutgers University where he served as Chairman of the Biology Department from 1978 to 1982 and is currently Director of the Division of Pinelands Research, a unit of the Center for Coastal and Environmental Studies. Much of his research has concentrated on the population dynamics of the dominant plant species of the Pine Barrens as well as on the production and ecosystem function of coastal and freshwater tidal marshes. Through his efforts the Pinelands was named a Biosphere Reserve in 1983 and now has a field station with a modern research laboratory.

Selection Committee:
Sarah Woodin, Chair
Brian Chabot
Eric Charnov
Arthur Cooper
Peter Vitousek
Henry Wilbur
Mary Willson