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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Keep America Beautiful Recognizes Pennsylvania Environmental Officer with National Law Enforcement Award**

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Ranger Todd Ottinger Receives Recognition*

**(February 5, 2018)** – Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s iconic community improvement nonprofit organization celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2018, presented Edward “Todd” Ottinger, a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Ranger, with a 2017 Environmental Officer Award at Keep America Beautiful’s National Awards Ceremony. The National Awards were presented during Keep America Beautiful’s recent National Conference in Dallas, Texas.



Photo Left to right: Todd Ottinger, DCNR Ranger; Helen Lowman, President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful; Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

The Keep America Beautiful Law Enforcement Awards recognize law enforcement professionals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community service in their approaches to enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

Ottinger is a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Ranger at the Michaux State Forest District #1. The DCNR rangers are responsible for interpreting rules, regulations, laws, and policies that cover 2.2 million acres of state maintained forest lands. Ottinger, working with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB), initiated the use of surveillance cameras to deter illegal dumping within the forest district

and worked with residents to build support in the community, establishing a network and creating enthusiasm for forest beautification.

“DCNR extends hearty congratulations to Ranger Ottinger for this national honor highlighting his personal and longstanding commitment to discouraging litter and graffiti in Michaux State Forest,” said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. “This Keep America Beautiful award shows a very high bar has been set for both enforcement and education by the ranger. Visitors to Michaux State Forest all share in the reward of his efforts.”

The surveillance cameras used by Ottinger are on loan through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s Illegal Dump Free PA program. “Todd applied the IllegalDumpFreePA.org programs to implement a comprehensive approach to illegal dumping within Michaux State Forest, building relationships with local officials, educating the public about the effects of illegal dumping and garnering over 40 prosecutions,” stated

Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “We are proud to work with Todd and Michaux State Forest and offer him our congratulations for his achievement.”

In addition, Ottinger has been asked by Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation to provide recommendations on approximate reparations for crimes committed on state forestland to allow for appropriate restitution when community service is not approved. He works alongside volunteers and youth groups to clean up roadside litter and large-scale dumping in state forests as part of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s Great American Cleanup of PA. Ottinger also worked with local District Justices to implement community service as restitution for illegal activities committed against Pennsylvania’s natural resources. As a result of Ottinger’s outstanding achievements and dedicated work, he was recognized by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful with an “Enforce It!” award in early 2017.

“Development and enforcement of written expectations – ordinances and policies – continue to be central to Keep America Beautiful’s Behavior Change System,” said Keep America Beautiful Vice President of Litter & Affiliate Relations Cecile Carson in presenting the award. “Our Law Enforcement Award recognizes the importance of law enforcement professionals as partners of our community-based affiliates in keeping our communities clean, green and beautiful.”

For a complete list of National Awards recipients, click [here](#).

The Keep America Beautiful National Conference, its premier educational and networking event, brings together nearly 400 leaders from Keep America Beautiful’s national network of affiliates, business leaders, policymakers and other experts who shared innovative ideas and proven strategies to help End Littering, Improve Recycling, and Beautify America’s Communities.

### **About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania’s roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org).

### **About Keep America Beautiful**

Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2018, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America’s Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision.

Behavior change – steeped in education, research and behavioral science – is the cornerstone of Keep America Beautiful. We empower generations of community and environmental stewards with volunteer programs, hands-on experiences, educational curricula, practical advice and other resources. The organization is driven by the work and passion of more than 600 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). Donate and take action at [kab.org](http://kab.org).

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