

# **RSVA Summer Convention Awards**

*By: Cindy Carruthers, RSVA National Office Staff*

## **"Don Cameron Advocacy Award"**

This Award is presented in memory of Don Cameron for his many years of service for blind vendors especially in the areas of communication and legislation.

The 2012 Don Cameron Award winner has been in the program since 1974 and at his present location since 1977, at Hoover Dam, Nevada.

On an initial humorous note, Kae Pohe's first assigned location was a new city hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. After they realized the elevator didn't go to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, he was sent elsewhere.

In early 1980, Kae called 5000 people to keep the Department of Employment and Rehabilitation office in his state open. In making so many calls, he met many people, one of whom is still a friend and colleague today- Rick Kuhlmeier. Together, they reactivated the Nevada Council of the Blind, which is still going strong today.

Kae was very instrumental in securing the Fallon Navy Base in Nevada. He has also chaired his State Committee and advocated tirelessly for vendors in his State.

He was also instrumental in the founding of our annual Sagebrush Training Conference 32 years ago. Kae has devoted his talents and knowledge to make the Sagebrush Conference a continuing success in Las Vegas, Nevada each year. RSVA has always appreciated Kae's dedication and hard work for many years to make the Sagebrush the successful conference we know today.

**CONGRATULATIONS KAE POHEHE AND THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR CONTINUED ADVOCACY!**

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**"Jennings Randolph Service Award"**

This award is presented to someone outside of the Randolph-Sheppard Program who has given his or her time and energy to Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America and for his or her service to blind vendors, but is not an active vendor.

The 2012 Jennings Randolph Award winner has been a friend of RSVA for many years. Rick Kuhlmeier now the President of the Nevada Council of the Blind, moved to Las Vegas in 1971. After becoming legally blind, Rick walked from Las Vegas to Carson City for the POW's, culminating in 18 days and 450 miles, which gained national news coverage. He was then appointed to the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped. An Air Force Veteran, Rick became a Lobbyist after earning a BA in Psychology. Rick is our volunteer champion at Sagebrush Conferences and always arranges for the many volunteers for the numerous activities to help attendees have a successful conference. His advocacy talents are not only appreciated by the Nevada Council of the Blind, but they are always appreciated by ACB and RSVA.

**CONGRATULATIONS RICK KUHLMEYER ON RECEIVING THE  
JENNINGS RANDOLPH AWARD!**

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**"Vendor of the Year Award"**

This coveted award is presented to an RSVA member who has been an active member for at least five years and has given his or her time

and energy to Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America and for service to blind vendors.

A listing of prior award winners can be found on the [rsva.biz](http://rsva.biz) website. All prior winners have worked tirelessly for RSVA and Randolph-Sheppard vendors nationwide, supporting their issues and resolve.

The 2012 “Vendor of the Year” winner has been in the Mississippi BEP program 25 years. Eddie Turner had operated snack bars, cafeterias, and vending locations until obtaining his current location, the Naval Air Station Meridian (MS).

Eddie has served on his State committee of blind vendors (MS) for fifteen years, and currently serves as Chair. The Mississippi SLA has honored him with three “Vendor of the Year” awards. In 2010, he obtained his 8A certification from the Small Business Administration which will help tremendously with his DOD location.

Eddie was elected to the RSVA Board of Directors two years ago and has served on other Boards. His willingness to work tirelessly for RSVA issues and support for Randolph-Sheppard vendors nationwide is greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS EDDIE TURNER ON YOUR RSVA VENDOR OF THE YEAR AWARD!!