

Winner of Steve Crosman Award Announced

Annual Award Recognizes Outstanding Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator



John Thomas, Hardin County Water District No. 1, has been honored, posthumously, with the third annual Steve Crosman Award for Outstanding Environmental Professionalism. John, who passed away on Oct. 3, 2014, was nominated by Amanda Spalding of Hardin County Water District No. 1. He held Class II Wastewater Treatment, Class IV Distribution and Class IV Water Treatment licenses.

The Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA) presents this annual award in memory of Steve Crosman, a trainer with the Certification and Licensing Branch of DCA, who passed away in December 2011. Steve devoted himself to ensuring safe water for Kentucky by making sure he did his best to assist and train operators.

John Thomas had made a career of almost 30 years in the Kentucky water and wastewater industry, with 14 years at Hardin County Water District No. 1. He originally served as the water treatment plant operator and then as the district's project manager. During his career, John never stopped learning. He was always open to educational experiences/opportunities and going above and beyond regulated training requirements.

Through his extensive experiences and desire to learn, John gained an incredible amount of knowledge of the water and wastewater industry. This served him well as he wore many hats in filling the director's project coordinator position.

John helped to improve the water quality in his community in numerous ways—including taking his job and responsibilities seriously, helping to educate coworkers and using his extensive experience to provide valuable input when needed. John fully grasped the magnitude and importance of being a water treatment operator. With every shift that he ran, John had the desire to make the best possible product. John was very intuitive, almost sensing what needed to be done, and he paid attention to the smallest details. He understood the impact on public health and safety and took that seriously.

John used this profession to impact the public. The scope of public health and safety did not fall short on John, and he did everything in his power to make sure this priority was first and foremost. His caring attitude with customers let them know he heard and understood their concerns and offered solutions for the issues they were facing. John always went the extra mile to ensure customers were satisfied.

John's influence spans the Commonwealth, not only in the places where he worked, but also in the locations that former trainees and coworkers work. Being unafraid of change, John took on new challenges and was always eager to learn --two key components of being successful in the water and wastewater industry.