

Gary J. Gefroh Safety and Health Award

Request for Nominations

Background

CAPT Gary J. Gefroh was a nationally recognized and highly respected Institutional Environmental Health Officer. He served the Indian Health Service (IHS) for 20 years providing expert technical consultation in the fields of healthcare accreditation, safety management, infection control, industrial hygiene and radiation protection. CAPT Gefroh was a treasured resource. He was a patient mentor to novice safety and infection control professionals. CAPT Gefroh's many years of distinguished service to American Indians and Alaska Natives and IHS employees advanced their health and safety in immeasurable ways.

Purpose

The purpose of the Gary J. Gefroh Safety and Health Award is to recognize significant contributions by an individual or group resulting in improved healthcare safety and/or infection control conditions at an IHS and/or Tribal healthcare program. This award is sponsored by the IHS Office of Environmental Health and Engineering.

Eligibility

All IHS or Tribal employees are eligible for nomination. Teams may also be nominated. Preference is given to individuals or teams performing at the local or facility level.

Criteria

The nominee(s) must have made significant contributions to the identification, reduction, control, or elimination of safety or infection control hazards in the healthcare setting. Hazards may be chemical, biological, radiological, or physical in nature (examples of physical hazards include: ergonomics, machinery, fire protection, physical security and building design). The contributions may be significant one-time events or they may be projects implemented over time. Projects initiated prior to the award year can be included if significant impacts or outcomes were realized in the award year.

Quality nominations should address:

- Importance of the safety or infection control project or intervention,
- Local or regional impact,
- Specific outcomes (e.g. reduced hazards or injury/illness rates, cost savings)
- Uniqueness of the identified problems or intervention methods
- Role of the individual or team in reducing hazards,
- Engagement with partners or applicability to other programs/locations, and
- Development of local/tribal capacity and long-term sustainability

Nominations

Candidates may be nominated by supervisors, colleagues, or program managers. Nominations should be submitted in Word file format and shall not exceed two pages (single spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Narratives should be written in such a manner to convey how the nominee has met the criteria noted above. **Nominations must be received by 5PM Eastern time, February 10, 2023.** Please submit nominations to stephen.piontkowski@ihs.gov.