



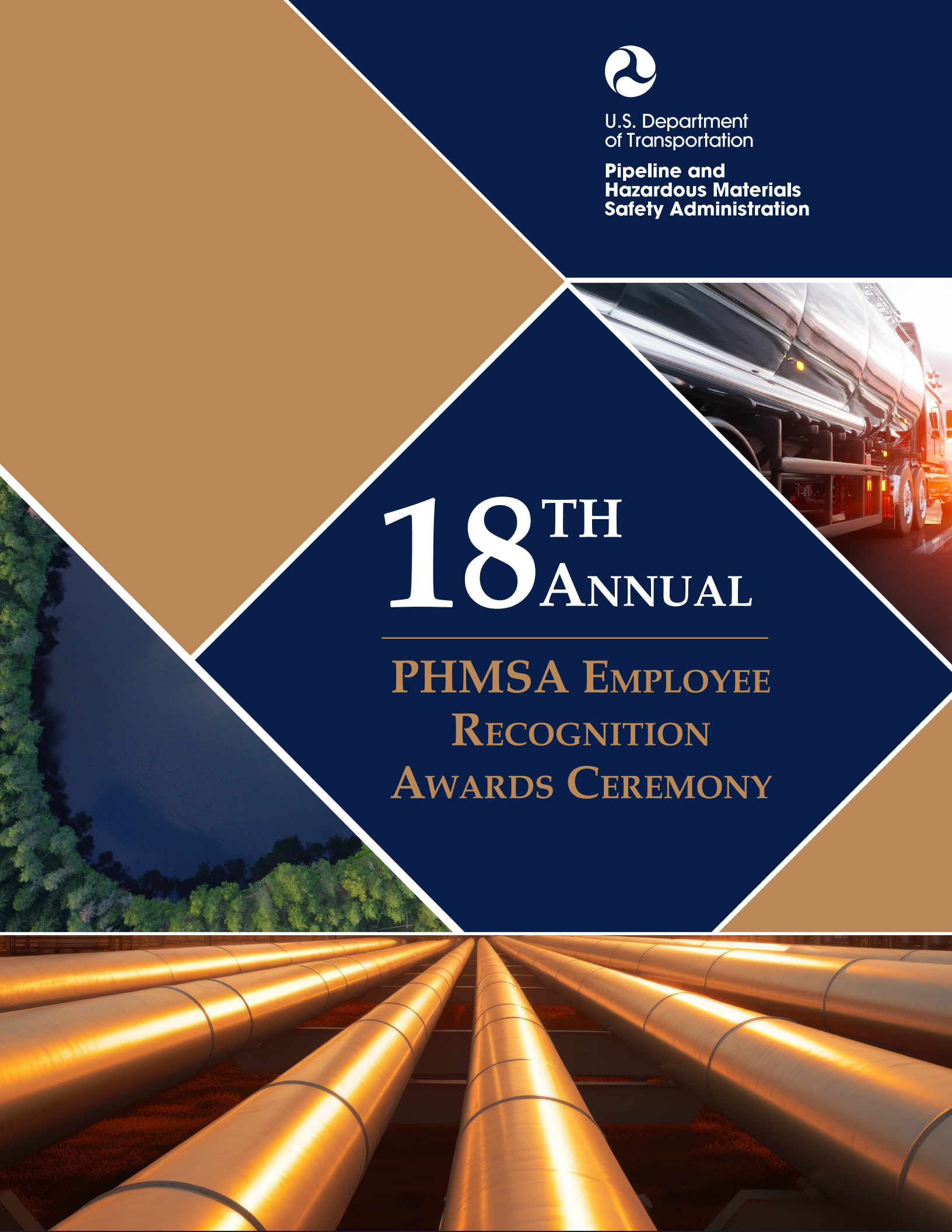
U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

# 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

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PHMSA EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION  
AWARDS CEREMONY







*Driven by Safety:  
Guided by Excellence*







## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR TRISTAN BROWN

I am pleased to welcome you to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's 18th Annual Employee Recognition Awards ceremony. Today, we take time to recognize our colleagues for their leadership, professionalism, dedication, and perseverance in ensuring that PHMSA continues to make substantial advances in the safe transportation of America's energy products via pipeline and hazardous materials by all modes.

It has been my great honor to host this distinguished event for each of the last four years. This is the one important moment we all take a break for—to give distinction to the individuals and teams that went above and beyond their duties in fulfilling our safety mission. Each of today's recipients exemplify the commitment to safety, innovation, and trust from which we, our stakeholders, and most importantly the public, benefit. Most of the public does not know who we are, and yet wherever one looks, there are examples of how PHMSA has kept the public safe, preserved our country's beautiful environment, and has helped to make the American way of life possible.

Much has happened over the past year, and I am extremely amazed at all that we've achieved. Today, it is my honor to recognize those whose outstanding performance has made PHMSA's past year something to not only celebrate, but to be proud of. I extend my sincere congratulations—and my thanks—to all of the award recipients.

# PROGRAM

## Welcome

Presentation of Colors & National Anthem

Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown

Rear Admiral Wayne R. Arguin Jr.

Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy U.S. Coast Guard

## Presentation of Awards

Superior Achievement (Bronze Medal) Award

Contribution to Excellence Award

Civility, Diversity and Inclusion Award

Office of Pipeline Safety Inspector or Investigator of the Year

Office Of Hazardous Materials Safety Investigator of the Year

Safety Leader Award

Team Award for Innovation and Collaboration

Mission Support Employee of the Year Award

Employee Years of Service Recognition

Award for Exemplary Achievement – The “Eagle” Award

## SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT (BRONZE MEDAL) AWARD

This award is in recognition of an employee or team whose performance consistently exceeds normal job expectations and has contributed in an exceptional way to the accomplishment of a specific Agency project or initiative.

### Individual Bronze Award

*Mr. Leary is honored for his exceptional U.S. leadership within the International Civil Aviation Organization resulting in development of safety requirements to enhance the safe air transportation of lithium batteries.*

**Kevin Leary**

### Team Bronze Award

#### BJ Medquip Cylinder Safety Team

*For their outstanding commitment and innovation in quickly addressing a high-profile investigation involving cylinders used in Medical Gas distribution. This team across OHMS, collectively worked together to identify a cylinder safety issue and worked together to help remove over 13,000 cylinders from service. Additionally, the team promoted safety to notify nationwide stakeholders thus preventing an incident occurring.*

**John Grutzmacher**

**Scott Yoder**

**Shawn Daniels**

**Scott Morton**

**Anthony Van Meter**

**Michael Senigo**

**Mayra Ramos**

**Matt Ripley**

**Duane Cassidy**

**Chery West Freeman**

**Dr. Lad Falat**

**Shane Kelley**

**Matthew Nickels**

**Glenn Foster**

**Dirk Der Kinderen**

**Refaat Shafkey**

**Neil Benninghoven**

**Aaron Mitchell**

**Neal Suchak**

**Ruben Ingram**

**Dan Richards**

## CONTRIBUTION TO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

This award is in recognition of an employee or team whose efforts in an operational support role provided vital assistance to PHMSA colleagues and meaningfully enhanced the agency's capabilities in pursuit of its safety mission.

### Team Award

*The award is in recognition for their exceptional accomplishments in economic research and analysis to enhance a body of knowledge that supports regulatory analysis, policy making, and program evaluation. This award goes to the: Economic Research and Regulatory Analysis Division.*

**Alesandro Arcuri**

**Anteneh Tesfaw**

**Gabriela Rohlck**

**Mark Johnson**

**Mikidadu Mohammed**

**Joshua Gorsuch**

**Ermias Weldemicael**

## CIVILITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION AWARD

The Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion (CDI) Award recognizes an employee or team for outstanding efforts to further PHMSA's goal of fostering an inclusive agency culture that values and celebrates the contributions of every member of the agency's diverse workforce.

*The initiatives implemented by this team increased the diversity and made it more representative of the nation it serves. For outstanding leadership and initiative in achieving a more collaborative and equitable workplace, our Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion: (PHMSA's Organizational Women's Employee Resource Group) Board of Directors.*

**Yolanda Braxton**

**Elizabeth LaDow**

**Dr. Katelin Maits**

**Olivia Milline**

**Tiffany Ziemer**

## PHH INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to an OHMS Investigator in recognition of exemplary performance of duty in identifying and responding to safety issues of national significance and whose efforts stand as a credit to the Agency and the Department

*For his commitment to the safe transportation of hazardous materials, and his ability to investigate, educate and foster strong relationships with stakeholders, through his tireless engagement and dedication to success in supporting the Department's and PHMSA's safety mission.*

**Patrick Lease**

## PHP INSPECTOR / INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Office of Pipeline Safety Inspector or Investigator of the Year Award for exemplary performance of duty in identifying and responding to safety issues of national significance and whose efforts stand as a credit to the Agency and the Department.

*For recognition of his tireless engagement and dedication in supporting the Department's and PHMSA's safety mission.*

**Samuel Maldonado**

## SAFETY LEADER AWARD

This award is presented to a PHMSA employee whose efforts have demonstrated leadership, commitment, and forward-thinking in pursuit of the agency's safety mission and have set a standard of performance worthy of emulation by his or her colleagues.

*For her unwavering dedication in safeguarding the public and the environment, through exceptional contributions to PHMSA's mission.*

**Valerie Schwing**

## TEAM AWARD FOR INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

This award is in recognition of a cross-functional team whose performance has exemplified teamwork, demonstrated creativity and novelty, and made a meaningful and lasting contribution to the work of the Agency.

*For exceptional collaboration and dedication to the safety and well-being of underserved communities across the Southwestern region: Southwest Region Underserved Community and Outreach Team.*

**Mayra Ramos**

**Juan Benavidez**

**Michael Senigo**

**Anthony Van Meter**

## MISSION SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mission Support Employee of the Year Award is to recognize the exemplary performance of an employee of one of the support offices that made an essential contribution to PHMSA's mission and that stands as a credit to the Agency and the Department.

*In recognition of his exceptional work ethic, leadership, and contributions to the Office of Administration.*

**Dustin Turner**



# EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Career Service Awards recognize employees who have reached key five-year milestones of service with the Federal Government.

## 35 Years

**James Reynolds**

**Geralda Severe**

**Gail Twitty**

## 30 Years

**Alphonso Grant**

**Damon Hill**

**Douglas Miller**

## 25 Years

**Alice Dodd**

**Patick Gaume**

**Agustin Lopez**

**Sean Mayo**

**Germaine Myles**

**Catrice Prailow**

**Jose Rufino**

**Jeremiah Siembida**

**Stuart Streck**

**Tito Wills**

# EAGLE AWARD

The Administrator’s Eagle Award represents the highest level of professional achievement by individuals or a team. Recipients of the Eagle Award have demonstrated unsurpassed leadership in the accomplishment of the PHMSA mission.

## Individual Award

*For exceptional leadership in creating outstanding pipeline safety solutions with courage, innovation, and determination.*

**Gabrielle St. Pierre**

## Team Award

### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Roadshow Team

*For their exemplary commitment to the safe transportation of natural gas while ensuring public safety and protecting the environment, the Eagle Medal goes to the Mountain Valley Pipeline Construction Project Team.*

<b>Adil Ahmed</b>	<b>Bruce Nilson</b>	<b>Alan Mayberry</b>
<b>Thomas Arsenault</b>	<b>Damond Smith</b>	<b>Linda Daugherty</b>
<b>Scott Bohnhoff</b>	<b>Matthew Sonneborn</b>	<b>Massoud Tahamtani</b>
<b>Jasmine Carr</b>	<b>Renee Taylor</b>	<b>James Urisko</b>
<b>Joshua Daniels</b>	<b>Michael Garcia</b>	<b>Rob Burrough</b>
<b>Damon Hill</b>	<b>Jay Prothro</b>	<b>Bryan Lethcoe</b>
<b>Matthew Hufford</b>	<b>Karen Gentile</b>	<b>Howard Mac McMillan</b>
<b>Darius Kirkwood</b>	<b>David Mulligan</b>	
<b>Shakira Mack</b>	<b>Nitander Raju</b>	



