

THE ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES  
OF THE  
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



February 2018

# OPEDA News Flash

**Your comments  
and contributions  
are welcome.**

Please contact us:  
202.720.4898

OPEDA@dm.usda.gov  
web-www.opeda.org  
OPEDA National  
Office, Room 1212,  
USDA South Building,  
1400 Independence  
Ave., S.W. Washington  
DC 20250 Mail: PO  
BOX 23762  
Washington, DC 20026

Please visit  
[www.OPEDA.org](http://www.OPEDA.org)  
for regular updates

and additional OPEDA  
and USDA event  
information.



### Presidents Message: Legislation

As we go to press, the USDA and all other US Departments and Agencies are funded under the fourth short term continuing resolution (CR) of the current fiscal year. This CR is scheduled to expire by February 8, 2018, if agreement on further funding is not reached. In essence, the Congress has not been able to agree on NEW funding priorities.

In the President's State of the Union Address, he called for the Congress to expand the Veterans Affairs Department Accountability Act to all of the government. He said: "I call on the Congress to empower every cabinet secretary with the authority to reward good workers—and to remove federal employees who undermine the public trust or fail the American people."

### U.S. Forest Service Firefighter Honored for Life Saving Efforts



(WASHINGTON, January 30, 2018) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue applauded President Trump's invitation of David Dahlberg, a U.S. Forest Service Firefighter, to attend the President's State of the Union address.

U.S. Forest Service's David Dahlberg was honored for helping rescue 62 children and staff members trapped at Circle V Ranch Camp by the Whittier Fire in Santa Barbara, CA. On July 8, 2017 David single-handedly worked to fireproof the camp and keep its inhabitants safe until they could all be rescued. Thanks to the efforts of David, and the Santa Barbara Fire and Sheriff's personnel, everyone survived.

He was invited to observe the President's State of the Union speech while seated with First Lady Melania Trump. Secretary Perdue praised President Trump's Invitation and made these comments:

"David's heroic actions in the face of grave danger displayed exceptional character, selflessness, and sound judgement," Perdue said. "His story of heroism is just one of many exhibited by the dedicated men and women of the United States Forest Service, who risk their lives to protect lives and property. I am grateful that President Trump is recognizing David and the excellent work of the Forest Service."

### Opportunity for Retirees, Stay Active Within the USDA

Join OPEDA's mission to enhance the effectiveness of USDA's employees in the performance of their duties. OPEDA is looking for part time volunteers to assist in pursuing the legislative, member services, and professional development needs of the Organization. Duties may include: preparing documentation to support the needs of the organization, helping to recruit new members, and developing and implementing new plans and programs to support members. This is an opportunity for retirees to stay active within the USDA, and to support the Organization and its employees. Volunteers enjoy flexible schedules and choose their area of service. OPEDA will reimburse commuting costs to/from Washington, DC, and for local travel to attend meetings. If you are interested in membership or volunteering, please contact Dana Manning, Director of Communications, at [OPEDA@dm.usda.gov](mailto:OPEDA@dm.usda.gov)