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Otterbein SeniorLife Partner Recognized for 40+ Years of Service with the National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Program

Lebanon, OH (March 20, 2023): On Thursday, March 16, 2023, representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) presented John Stephenson with four awards recognizing his 41 years of individual service and, cumulatively, over 81 years of service from the Stephenson family. The awards were presented to John by Thomas Johnstone, James Gibson and Ashley Novak – representing the NOAA.

John's passion for the NOAA stems from his late father, Clarence Enis Stephenson, more lovingly known as Steve. Steve started his relationship with NOAA in 1942 while working at Peter's Cartridge Company. His role was to measure the height of the Little Miami River in his area, especially during heavy rain falls, with the objective to help prevent damage as the result of potential flooding.

Over time, Steve would take John and his four brothers - Tom, Mark, David and Todd- every Sunday to measure the river's depth and help deliver newspapers. For the next 40 years Steve continued to record and report river heights to the Wilmington NOAA. Six months after his passing John picked up the torch and continued in his father's footsteps.

And now John, himself, has been recognized for his steady work in partnering with the NOAA as a cooperative weather observer, one of over 8,700 in the country who are involved in the program. The recognition is directly from the NOAA, the National Weather Service and the U.S. Department of Commerce for steadfastly engaging such an important responsibility and executing it faithfully for 41 consecutive years, with several more to come. The awards presented to John included:

- John independently with 40 plus years of continuous service the National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Program (accepted by John)
- The Stephenson family with 75 plus years of service with the National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Program (accepted by John and his brother Mark)
- U.S. Department of Commerce recognition for his 40 plus years of service in the government of the United States of America (accepted by John)
- The *Family Heritage Award* presented by NOAA and the U.S. Department of Commerce for serving 75 or more years as Cooperative Weather Observers – a certificate and an American United States flag (accepted by John and his brother Mark)
- A pendent, traditionally only for meteorologists, presented directly to John in appreciation of his dedicated service to community and country.

In addition to his service to NOAA, the local community and the country, John Stephenson has contributed mightily with 40 years of service to Otterbein SeniorLife; and we congratulate John on his achievements and his well-deserved recognition by our various governmental agencies – way to go , John!

Founded in 1912, Otterbein SeniorLife serves nearly 7,000 people annually, maintains nine full-service senior life communities, nine skilled nursing and rehabilitation neighborhoods and community-based services agencies (home health and hospice care).

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