

### Award nomination for Jeff Powell, Rathbun Lake, Iowa. 2023

Jeff's truly our proverbial right-hand man! An Army veteran, retired from working on tanks and trucks, Jeff offers many skill sets, and a work ethic that's just over-the-top wonderful.

Jeff and wife, Kathy, sold there home to become full time RVers in 2019 and spent the first-year volunteering at USACE's, Cancel Grove, KS, project. Rathbun Lake welcomed them in 2020 and finding the lake and fellow volunteers much to their liking, have been volunteer residents here since.

Starting out as park custodians at Buck Creek Park, Jeff shared that he would enjoy a more diverse assignment. Wish granted! Jeff is now described as the project handyman. Last year he was logged into as many as 11 FEM jobs one month.

Inspecting, repairing, and general preventive care of our fleet of UTV's, lawn mowers, string trimmers has saved us numerous hours of down time and dollars. But that is only the start. Jeff fills in for any volunteer that may need a day away from being a park attendant or custodian. He has painted, been a carpenter, weeded, seeded, and mowed. He has worked in each of our six park areas and assisted every ranger with some kind of

task including pulling out smelly, slimy, lake bouys in the fall. Jeff exhibits great skills with the public, always having time to answer questions and be generally helpful to our lake guests. All the acts of work and kindness Jeff just can't be included here.

The Corps of Engineers, Rathbun Lake Project, the lake community, and certainly each of one our staff has been enriched by his presence. Please join me in thanking and rewarding Jeff for his efforts and merits.

Jamison Davis

Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator

