

# EMPLOYEE ACCOLADES: EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



**George Thompson is one in a million. If you don't believe it,** just ask the employees of the American Red Cross facility that he proudly and selflessly serves as a security officer in Columbus, Ohio. When George received both an Officer of the Month Award and Making a Difference Award in 2012 and the Red Cross staff heard that he was being considered for our prestigious Whelan Security Employee of the Year Award, they came out of the woodwork to sing George's praises with email after email advocating on his behalf.

Here were just a few of the comments they made:

*"I look forward to having George escort me to the building because I know he will get my day off to a good start with his contagious personality and smile."*

*"George has always treated me with the utmost respect; from his morning greeting to his afternoon goodbyes. Going the extra mile is part of his character not part of his job."*

*"George always exhibits excellent customer service and a true commitment to my safety and well being."*

*"He makes me want to come into work in the morning just to get a ride with him!"*

*"We love George and I can say 'we' because I sit at the front desk and every day employees come in and talk about how much he always makes them smile, or they come in laughing at something he has said. George is one in a million and is definitely a gold star in our family."*

*Continued on page 8*

Comments such as those made it easy for the local Whelan branch team in the Ohio/Kentucky region to nominate George for the Employee of the Year Award with these words: "George Thompson is an officer who personifies all ten of Whelan's core values. His positive attitude and compassionate way make him known and loved by all with whom he comes in contact." Endorsements such as those given by the Red Cross employees and nominations such as the one submitted by the local branch office, characterize the spirit of the Whelan Security Employee of the Year Award. In earning this award, an employee of Whelan is selected from a pool of all of our Officers of the Month/Year across all branch offices who best exemplify our core values. While we recognize many officers for acts of heroism through our "Making a Difference" recognition program, this award is bestowed upon the employee who most consistently delivers world-class service to our customers and who most consistently displays exceptional values in their work and in their life over an extended period of time.

So it is with great pleasure that we introduce you to the man who so many people appreciate and love and who was selected as the 2012 Employee of the Year out of over 5,000 fellow employees and peers at Whelan Security. George Thompson has lived all 52 years of his life with a passion for something that was instilled in him as a little boy growing up in the Good Samaritan Baptist Church in

Columbus—Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. His mother taught him, his brother and two sisters to always be respectful to everyone, no matter what walk of life they come from. These principles of treating others with respect, that he learned at home and church during his early childhood years, were reinforced during his years in the Boy Scouts and then serving his country in the United States Army. Serving others has been a lifetime calling for George.

Professionally, he continued his career after the military by working for many years in security for THE Ohio State University (yes, George is a Buckeye fan) followed by a lengthy tenure working for the City of Columbus as an Ambassador for the Capital Crossroads Program, literally and figuratively keeping the streets of Columbus clean through neighborhood protection, driving a street-sweeping machine, bike patrol and his favorite thing to do—helping people with safety measures and directions to local restaurants, hotels, shops and events. No matter what George's task was, he always did it with a smile on his face and has continued to do so for us during his two years serving the American Red Cross for Whelan Security. What better client for George to provide service—the man who loves serving and helping people working for a client whose very mission is to serve and to help people?





## “GOING THE EXTRA MILE IS PART OF HIS CHARACTER, NOT PART OF HIS JOB.” — AMERICAN RED CROSS EMPLOYEE

During a ceremony honoring George in late March—where he was presented with a leather-bound certificate, monetary reward and the Warrior’s Sword of the Templar Knight symbolic of being the Employee of the Year—he gave a genuine and heartfelt speech where he told a room full of Whelan and Red Cross management that we were his family and he would do anything for us. The tears of pride streaming down his face certainly showed us how much he meant it, tears that were reciprocated by most of the people in the room. However, there is something greater that drives George to do what he does—it is his six children ranging in age from 15 to 24. He boasts about one daughter who is studying to be a doctor, another one who has given him two granddaughters as a stay-at-home mom and the other four who are all in school—including his 15-year-old daughter who George says is 15 going on 30! Nothing made him more proud than to go home and show off the Templar Knight Warrior Sword to his kids as an example of how to work hard and serve well.

While his family and his job come first and second, most weekends you will find George watching sports (his favorite sport is basketball), playing his favorite musical instrument (the trumpet) or maybe bowling a game down at the local

alley. But George’s number one hobby will always be serving others, doing unto others the way you would have them do unto you, treating others with respect and showing us all how to live life to the fullest. This is who he is and why he is such a worthy recipient of the Templar Knight Warrior Sword and honor as the Whelan Security Employee of the Year—and we are all better for knowing him as our colleague and friend.

