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## NEWS RELEASE

*What:* Scholarships honoring former Refuge Manager released.

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The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), are proud to announce the availability of three scholarships in honor of Richard J. Guadagno, the former manager of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (HBNWR) who died as a hero on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Rich grew up in New Jersey, attended Rutgers University and then worked for the Service for 17 years. Rich was a very passionate person who loved his work and devoted his life to the conservation of natural resources.

Money for the scholarship fund was generously donated by many people throughout the country and matched by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in order to sustain the legacy of Rich's commitment to resource conservation. The scholarships will be for \$500 for one student each year at CR and \$1000 for an undergraduate student and \$2000 for a graduate student at HSU each year. The application deadline is December 1, 2008. The scholarship is intended to support students studying natural resources and sciences at both the College of the Redwoods (CR) and Humboldt State University (HSU). 2007 HSU undergraduate scholarship winner Will Goldenberg stated, "The scholarship affected my academic career positively. Without this funding I would have never been able to finance my film projects while still pursuing my degree. Instead of all my money going towards tuition, I was able to use the scholarship money for projects that would both educate people about local conservation and springboard my career as an outdoor filmmaker. This type of opportunity is unparalleled for those who want to supplement their time in the classroom with real world learning and experiences."

Rich's family, Jerry and Bea Guadagno of New Jersey and sister Lori of Florida said, "We are very appreciative of the outpouring of support for Rich and we feel this is a fitting way to keep his memory alive at a place and area he cared a great deal for and considered special." It is hoped that through future donations and fundraising the scholarship fund may serve Rich's memory in perpetuity. Toward that end the family has donated another \$5000 to the fund. If the public has an interest in contributing to the

scholarship fund, they can do so through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org) or by contacting Krystyna Wolniakowski at 503-417-8700.

Preference will be given to qualified students submitting proposals for work on the refuge followed by Humboldt Bay and associated watersheds, Humboldt County, California, and the U.S. Applications for these scholarships and further information may be found at the refuge's website, [www.fws.gov/humboldt-bay](http://www.fws.gov/humboldt-bay); or by emailing [Shannon\\_Smith@fws.gov](mailto:Shannon_Smith@fws.gov) or [Sean\\_Brophy@fws.gov](mailto:Sean_Brophy@fws.gov). The deadline to submit applications for the scholarships is December 1, 2008. Selections will be made by a committee consisting of representatives of the Guadagno family, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Fish and Wildlife Service, the community, and the schools during the spring of 2009.