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NEWS RELEASE

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The New Mexico Search and Rescue Council honors Dexter's Bob Lathrop with the Dawdy Award

Albuquerque, N.M.

May 10, 2010

The New Mexico SAR community's highest honor, the Ralph Dawdy Memorial Award was presented to Bob Lathrop, a former resident of Dexter. The award was presented at E.S.C.A.P.E., the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council's annual training conference, held at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron.

Lathrop, who recently moved to Hawaii, was a well-known Area Commander who assisted with hundreds of SAR missions. A founding member of Chaves County Off Road Search and Rescue, Lathrop frequently assisted teams from around the state and helped write the original standards to which certified responders in New Mexico are tested.

The Ralph Dawdy Memorial Award was created to honor the memory of Ralph Dawdy. He was a veteran firefighter with the Animas Volunteer Fire and Rescue and also Bootheel Search and Rescue. He died June 26, 2003 when responding to the Jenny Fire in Gila National Forest with a loaded water tanker. His tanker left the roadway of Forest Road 150 falling 123 feet into Terry Canyon; overturning 3 times. Ralph was thrown from tanker and died at the scene.

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