

2026 ASDSO Awards Program

DANNY MCCOOK MEDAL

OVERVIEW

This Medal was established by the Affiliate Member Advisory Committee, now known as the ASDSO Advisory Committee (AdCom), to recognize Danny McCook's lifetime achievements in the field of geotechnical engineering and his contributions to ASDSO and the AdCom.

Danny McCook was an engineer who made major contributions and advancements to the geotechnical engineering practice for dam safety in the United States. After a long and distinguished 40+ year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), Danny continued to consult in the dam safety arena until his untimely passing. He was a life-long student of geotechnical engineering as it applies to dam safety, and he was always willing to share his knowledge and experience through papers, presentations, short courses, webinars, telephone calls, and face-to-face conversations. Danny and his contributions will continue to be sorely missed by ASDSO and the rest of the dam safety community. The award consists of a medal and a certificate.

GUIDELINES FOR THE BASIS OF SELECTION

- The Medal will be awarded for outstanding contributions to the advancement of technical research, education, and/or practice in geotechnical engineering for dams on a national or international level.
- The Medal will ordinarily be granted for cumulative distinguished technical contributions in geotechnical engineering for dams. In exceptional cases, it may be awarded for a single contribution of outstanding merit.
- Although not an explicit criterion, consideration may be given to the breadth and impact of geotechnical contributions that advance ASDSO programs, initiatives, or technical objectives.
- The Medal may be awarded every year at the discretion of the selection committee and will be limited to one individual, unless a nomination is based on work which was a joint effort of a substantial duration.
- No individual shall receive the Medal more than once.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Provide the following using paragraph form:

- A cover letter signed by the nominator.
- The nominee's Curriculum Vitae or biographical information.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Completed nomination form.

PROCEDURES

- All nominations must use the attached PDF form. Nominations may be sent to Awards@Damsafety.org.
- The deadline for nomination and submittal of documents is May 1, 2026.
- The nominations will be reviewed, and the recipient chosen by the ASDSO Advisory Committee.
- Award recipients will be notified in July 2026. Award recipients will be recognized at an awards luncheon on August 31, 2026, held in conjunction with the Dam Safety 2026 national conference Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Award recipients will be recognized in select Dam Safety 2026 materials, on the ASDSO website, in *The Journal of Dam Safety*, and ASDSO's Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Report.

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NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Is the Nominee a Professional Engineer? Yes No

ATTACHMENTS

Attach this Nomination Form, Cover Letter, the Nominee's Curriculum Vitae or Biographical Information, and Three Letters of Recommendation to the Submission Email

Nominations should be submitted to Awards@Damsafety.org