

43rd ANNUAL VIRGINIA HART SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

NOMINATIONS DUE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

The Virginian Hart Award was established on behalf of Virginia Hart, Wisconsin's first woman cabinet member, upon her retirement in 1983. Her friends and colleagues established a fund so that each year an individual in Wisconsin State service could be recognized for exemplary performance and contribution to the people of Wisconsin.

During her distinguished career with state government, Ms. Hart served as Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Chairperson of the Commission for the Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations, and Chairperson of the Labor and Industry Review Commission.

The award's emphasis is recognizing "unsung heroes" in state service, to provide encouragement and recognition to all individuals in state government. Qualities might include:

- Held in high esteem by peers
- Acceptance of responsibility beyond the limits of nominee's job description
- Sustained, extraordinary achievement of assigned tasks
- Performance recognition from clients
- Community service
- Overcoming hardships to performance
- Self-improvement

This list of qualities is not exhaustive. It identifies, however, the qualities Ms. Hart exemplified when the Special Recognition Award was established.

The Awards Committee needs your help to obtain nominations for potential award recipients. Please use the Nomination Form to nominate an individual you think should be recognized. Nomination forms may be reproduced.

Nominations can be made by anyone. Nominees can be in classified (represented or non-represented) or unclassified service and from any part of the state. However, Limited Term Employees and employees of the University and Legislature are not eligible for the award. A single recipient will be recognized in an award presentation Friday, October 23, 2026, in the Assembly Chambers of the State Capitol.

Please help make the recognition award a success by nominating an individual who makes a real difference in state service.

For more information, please contact Briann Padrutt at DOA Division of Personnel Management Bureau of Equity and Inclusion at briann.padrutt@wisconsin.gov

**43rd ANNUAL VIRGINIA HART SPECIAL
RECOGNITION AWARD
2026 NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's Name _____

Current Position _____ Permanent Project

Supervisor's Name _____

Agency _____ Division _____ Phone _____

Work Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Directions: In the box below, describe how the nominee has demonstrated exceptional performance and has made a significant contribution to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. Nominators are encouraged to cite specific examples. Please make sure to address how the nominee meets the qualities outlined in the attached additional information. Avoid use of agency acronyms when writing the nomination. Additional pages may be attached as needed.

Nominator's Name _____

Title _____

Agency _____ Work Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Send Nominations to:
Hart Recognition Committee, attn: Briann Padrutt, by email at:
briann.padrutt@wisconsin.gov
DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2026