



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LT. DARRYL MOORE
PRESIDENT, LWAA

It takes a unique person to do the job of a wildlife agent. From working the odd hours and the fluctuating schedule in all types of terrain and all kinds of weather, to working weekends and holidays when most others are spending time with their families, it takes dedication and a commitment to the cause.

“Big Jim” Matkin was no exception. Jim was a giant of a man with an even bigger heart. A graduate of McNeese State University, he excelled at football while matching his performance on the field

with success in the classroom, receiving a bachelor’s degree in wildlife management.

Because we are a small family of wildlife agents, we have the opportunity to get to know each other even though we are scattered about the state. I had the chance to teach Jim in the academy, and even then he seemed happy and appreciative to be doing just what he was doing.

In later years when I would run into Jim on the job or in the community, he always seemed genuinely glad to see me. He always gave me a firm

handshake, a big smile and a warm greeting: “Hey Lieutenant, it’s real good to see ya!” You could tell he meant it from the heart. Jim was definitely one man I was glad to have on my side.

Jim may be gone from our earthly presence, but one day I believe we will have the chance to meet again. I imagine the greeting will be the same, “Hey Lieutenant, it’s real good to see ya again!”

And I’ll be able to reply, “Yeah, Jim, it’s real good to see you too.”