**We're Looking for an Outstanding Advocate!**

# About the Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy

The Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in RuralAdvocacyfor 2022 will be presented to an individual or organizational member of APRIL at the Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, October 14, 2022 during our national conference in Orlando, Florida.

Who is Earl Walden? In the early days of APRIL, Earl was a great friend and supporter of our new organization. As a colleague who worked at ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) in Houston, Earl had a heart as big as Texas and a gift for finding resources or solutions to problems as easy and smooth as his southern drawl. He took APRIL under his wing when we needed an advocate on our side, and when he died suddenly in 1997, we felt his loss greatly. Establishing an award in his honor has been a long-time objective of both APRIL and ILRU.

This year's winner will receive $1000 \*\****towards registration and room nights with balance remaining paid by check\*\**** along with a beautifully engraved award. Here is your chance to nominate one of your colleagues and recognize their contribution to rural independent living. Please complete the attached nomination form and return it, via email, fax, or mail to:

APRIL

11324 Arcade Dr., Suite 9

Little Rock, AR 72212

501-753-3406 fax

[eellis@april-rural.org](mailto:april-elissa@sbcglobal.net)

# **Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy Nomination Form**

Name of Nominee:

CIL or Company:

Address:

City:       State:       Zip:

Telephone:       Fax:

Email:

\*Reason for Nomination (Use additional pages as needed):

Name of Nominator:

Center/Organization:

Telephone:       Fax:

**Nomination forms must be postmarked or received by August 19, 2022.**

# **Guiding Principles:**

Please consider the following Guiding Principles as you make your nomination and explain your reasons for nominating this particular person and/or organization.

* CIL / SILC is a Member of APRIL
* Directly assisted persons with disabilities living in Rural America
* Exhibited a steadfast commitment to the improvement and growth of the Independent Living mission and philosophy;
* Demonstrated the ability to bridge gaps and/or build strong partnerships among those concerned with improving and strengthening the Independent Living movement;
* Demonstrated the commitment to improve access to Independent Living by all people eligible;
* Demonstrated a commitment to broaden their own knowledge base and improve their ability to contribute to the cause;
* Demonstrated a commitment to implement new and innovative ideas and/or projects in the Independent Living world; and
* Promotes pride and action in the rural disability community.