

Nicole Briand

From: Bruce Flaherty <bwflah@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 7:41 PM
To: Nicole Briand
Subject: For Bowdoinham SelectBoard: Spirit of America Holiday Greetings & 2024 Tribute

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Dear Nicole & Other Bowdoinham Officials,

”By demonstrating that change is possible, you can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond your community service.” (richmondvale.org)

Thanks Bowdoinham for helping volunteerism by choosing a 2023 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute recipient!

185+ Maine towns picked Spirit of America winners this year!

In 2024:

Your Board of Selectmen is asked to pick (deadline 6/30/24) the local person, project or group to receive the 2024 Bowdoinham Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for outstanding community service using your own criteria and to honor the recipient (presumably with a resolution or proclamation) at your annual town meeting. Many municipalities choose the one to whom their annual town report is dedicated as Spirit of America winner. Visit <https://spiritofamerica.website> & click FAQ, etc. to find answers to any question you might have!

Please provide info about your municipality’s Tribute winner on <https://spiritofamerica.website> - thanks so much!

Congratulations to this year’s 90+ Gold Distinction towns!

Some 2023 treasured comments about Spirit of America:

“It’s a nice program.” (Elaine Aloes, Maine Municipal Association President)

“Spirit of America has become an important part of our community. People look forward to the annual award presentation.” (Durlin Lunt, Mount Desert Town Manager)

To add extra ‘sparkle’ to the program, 2024 will feature ‘Maine Municipal Officials Appreciation Month’ - stay tuned!

I recently moved from Augusta to Scarborough and donated to Maine State Library my collection of Spirit of America memorabilia since the program started in 1991 - all may visit that information center & enjoy those Maine archives!

Spirit of America winners have included: (might give you ideas for a '24 selection)

Connor Barry, a youth, raised \$275 from Hot Chocolate sales and bought needy kids Xmas gifts. FHC, Inc. (a business) runs several community projects, including fundraisers for fire dept. & school.

The Herring Family has volunteered and held many municipal positions over a 200-year period. Vernon Stevens is police officer saving lives of two youths as their home was engulfed in flames. Andrew & Shelby Silvernail donated \$250,000 to Bucksport High to help its science programs.

Wishing you a happy, healthy holiday season & thank you for being part of the Spirit of America family!

Bruce Flaherty, President
Maine Spirit of America
(a Spirit of America Foundation chapter)
213-9035, bwflah@gmail.com

A municipality may achieve the most prestigious Gold Distinction by presenting its Spirit of America Foundation Tribute at the annual town meeting or inauguration, during an annual community festival, or during National Volunteer Month (April).

**TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM
POLICY FOR
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SELECTION**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for and criteria by which the annual Citizen of the Year is chosen.

II. Committee

- A. The Select Board shall appoint an ad-hoc committee consisting of at least one Select Board member (and not more than two Select Board members), any or all previous recipients of the Citizen of the Year award, and other interested members as determined by the Select Board. The Committee members shall not have defined terms, and will cease after a nomination is presented to the Select Board each year.

III. Procedures

- A. The Citizen of the Year ad-hoc committee shall receive nominations annually to receive the award. The Committee shall review nominations and make a recommendation to the Select Board in August of each year. The Committee also shall forward a complete list of nominees to the Select Board.
- B. The Select Board shall review the recommendation of the Committee and shall select the award recipient.
- C. The Citizen of the Year annual award shall be given to the selected nominee at the annual Celebrate Bowdoinham event in September.

IV. Criteria

- A. The Citizen of the Year award recipient shall be an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of Bowdoinham citizens, a special individual who shows dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty.
- B. The following characteristics will be considered: present activities, previous activities, charitable/philanthropic efforts, improvement in the quality of life for Bowdoinham residents, and commitment to the community.

First adopted by the Bowdoinham Select Board on _____, 2014.

Select Board

Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

Brian Hobart, Chair

M. Theresa Turgeon, Vice-Chair

Witness to all:

William S. Post
Town Manager

Wendy Cunningham

Kathleen Gallant

Douglas Tourtelotte