



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Citizen of the Year Award 2020

Well, what a year to be Citizen of the Year. In most “normal” years, you have all kinds of opportunities to see that outstanding citizen doing their stuff-whether it’s at church, charity functions, community events... but not this year for many, if not all those events were cancelled. So during a year like we just experienced how do you choose that special individual? Well, you still look for those outstanding qualities in a person-helpful, courteous, great personality, someone who promotes our City, and is a cheerleader for our City.

But 2020 gave me a unique opportunity to choose someone who displayed tremendous leadership during what was and still is a worldwide pandemic. Remember, short months ago, we were all terrified that this virus could wipe out civilization as we know it. I know from personal experience it took me hours just to get groceries and put them away. Our future was unpredictable and that was the scariest thing about it... we just didn’t know how bad this was going to get!

But there was one person who was “cool-hand Luke”. He knew exactly what needed to be done and how to get through this crisis. Through his leadership, we got through this pandemic better than most.

When some hear of my 2020 pick for Franklin’s Citizen of the Year, they might say, “That’s his job” or “that’s what he gets paid to do!”. And, yes, they’d be right. But I guess the same could be said for those first responders on 9/11 when they ran into the gates of hell when everyone else was running away. Similarly, this was a once in a hundred-year pandemic and this Citizen of the Year handled it with distinction.

Finally, my personal appreciation to this individual for keeping those of us unfamiliar with working through these highly stressful times calm, collected, and truly appreciated our humble input. He always displayed leadership-but made us all feel valued members of his very special team of professionals.

In recognition of all he’s done in 2020-Year of the Pandemic, I proudly award the Citizen of the Year to: Chief Michael Foss. God bless you and your family.

Tony Giunta-Mayor, City of Franklin