



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Guidelines for the Hometown Hero Program

Adopted by Board of Selectmen

November 13, 1996

Amended February 23, 1998

1. Background Information

The Program was initiated in 1986 by Governor William O'Neill as part of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Connecticut. Any municipality could designate residents as "Hometown Heroes" for any deed or service that made the community a better place in which to live. State certificates were presented to the 42 individuals and 4 organizations on May 12, 1986. The following year, First Selectman Margaret Shanks continued the program with certificates developed for Simsbury, naming 48 designates. It has been continued since, with Hometown Heroes recognized at a ceremony on or near the date of May 12, the date of Simsbury's birth.

2. Criteria for Selection

- A. A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration;
- B. Person(s) who has demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town.
- C. That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that;
- D. Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth "Committee") shall be duly considered with the following exceptions:

The hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official. Nor shall the hero have benefited economically from his/ her endeavors on behalf of the Town.

- E. There will be no quotas or automatic selections by the Committee. Recognizing the premise that an abundance of awards will dilute the significance of the award, the Committee is duly charged to use its discretion in the number to be awarded.

3. The Selection Process

The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen on an annual basis. The Selection Committee shall consist of the First Selectman, a Board of Selectmen member of the opposite party, a member of the Historical Society, a business leader, a previous hometown hero, and a member of a Veteran's or service organization, with the goal of non-partisanship in mind.

- A. Written nominations will be requested and received during the thirty (30) day period preceding April 18th.
- B. The Committee shall approve the list of designates no later than May 2, 2016.
- C. The First Selectman's Office shall notify all designees by May 4, 2016 the time and place of award ceremony.
- D. The First Selectman's Office shall complete arrangements for refreshments and publicity by May 9, 2016.

(NOTE: All dates are subject to revision and change.)

4. The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall review the names nominated for the Hometown Hero Award. The annual list of award recipients will be published in the Annual Town Report, and their names will be engraved on the Hometown Heroes plaque in the Town Hall.

The membership of the Committee shall be appointed by the First Selectman and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Staff assistance to the Selection Committee shall include reasonable requests deemed necessary by the Committee.