

Mayor's Cup honors the local Frontline Essential Workers with the 2020 "Spirit of Ianelli" Award

Plattsburgh, New York (July 2, 2020) – The Sunrise Rotary Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival Committee is pleased to announce that our local Frontline Essential Workers have been named the 2020 "Spirit of Ianelli" Award honorees.

The "Spirit of Ianelli" Award was established in 2010 in honor of the late Mayor John Ianelli, former Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh and co-founder of the Mayor's Cup Regatta in 1978. This honor is bestowed upon an individual or individuals – sailor or landlubber – who exemplify the same "community does matter" spirit that inspired Mayor Ianelli 42 years ago, empowering our lake community to thrive, not only on race day, but every day.

As announced previously, because of the COVID-19 social distancing protocols still in effect, the 43rd Annual Mayor's Cup Festival has been cancelled for this year, and the Mayor's Cup Regatta will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2020, but will not include any group activities on shore. In the past, the 'Spirit of Ianelli' awardees have been honored at the Mayor's Cup Regatta Awards ceremony which will not be taking place this year. However, in spite of these unfortunate circumstances, Sunrise Rotary's Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival Committee felt that it was important to continue the tradition of honoring community spirit and dedication with the 2020 "Spirit of Ianelli" Award. "In fact, we are honoring those very individuals that have and are continuing to help our community survive and limit the spread of this deadly virus", said Kjell Dahlen, Co-Chair of the Sunrise Rotary Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival Committee. "In general the committee prefers to identify a single individual or individuals that exemplify the 'community does matter' spirit. However, in times of crisis, as in the case of the Dannemora prison break in 2015, it is difficult to put a face to all the individuals who are risking their lives to protect ours."

Plattsburgh Mayor Colin Read commented, "So many people risked their lives to save our lives. I heartily thank those who kept us safe, and ask that we continue to keep them safe by wearing masks. We are not out of the woods yet, so the contribution of our frontline workers and first responders will continue for a while. I thank them, and ask us to do our part."

Sunrise Rotary President Sue LeBlanc-Durocher added, "Throughout this pandemic, I have seen a multitude of care, concern, and kindness from frontline workers. These are our friends, family, and even co-workers. Let's remember we are all in this together."

The past honorees of the "Spirit of lanelli" Award include:

2019 - Plattsburgh Air Park Restoration Group of Volunteers

2018 - Leigh and Stephens Mundy

2017 - Janet Duprey

2016 - Gordie Little

2015 - Local Law Enforcement

2014 - Kit and Sally Booth

2013 - Bob Wallet

2012 - Roger Harwood

2011 - Matt Spiegel

2010 - Bob Pooler

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About Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival

Hosted by Sunrise Rotary, the Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival is Plattsburgh's most time-honored and highly anticipated summer tradition on Lake Champlain. Taking place next year on July 10, 2021, the one-day celebration will include the Regatta, Post-Race BBQ and Award's Ceremony, Family & Kid's Activities and so much more! For more information go to www.mayorscup.com or contact joannedahlen@gmail.com

About Sunrise Rotary

To learn more about the Sunrise Rotary Club, the community projects we have helped to develop and the organizations we support locally and around the world, please visit our website at www.plattsburghsunriserotary.org or contact the club at rotaryclub1982@gmail.com.