

2020 Spirit of America Winners:

Town of Cushing: Alton Grover

Alton Grover has served on the Cushing Select Board since 1984, including many years as Chairman. He has overseen the administration of General Assistance since 1984. Alton has plowed the roads of Cushing ever since stepping up when the position of Road Commissioner was vacated many years ago, at which time the Cushing Selectmen became Road Commissioners.

Alton also has been a member of the Masons (*a philanthropic organization*) since 1969. This includes being raised to the Degree of Master Mason in Orient Lodge in 1970, exalted to the Degree of a Royal Arch Mason in Keystone Chapter, greeted as a Super Excellent Master in King Hiram Council in 1980, created a Knight Templar in Claremont Commendery in 1981, and a member of the Kora Shrine and the MidCoast Shrine Club.

Town of Rockport: Dave Jackson

Dave Jackson's many volunteer activities include being an incorporator of Sea Education Association, an institution that offers hands-on experience in sailing at sea to College and High School Students, and a participant in the Community Rowing Project with Atlantic Challenge in Rockland.

He is a two-time Paul Harris Fellow of the Camden Rotary Club, a member of the Camden Downtown Business Group, and has spent many hours helping Coastal Mountains Land Trust and Merryspring Nature Center.

Dave has also spent many volunteer hours helping people with developmental disabilities, having served on the Board of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children. More locally, as a Board Member of Coastal Opportunities in Camden for more than 30 years,

Town of St. George: Charlene Black

Charlene Black has a gracious nature, so her living next door to the St. George Town Office is a real pleasure. She enjoys keeping an eye on town doings and interacting with the staff.

Special events such as Memorial Day and St. George Day delight her, as she opens up her front lawn for spectators, even offering them coffee and muffins.

Charlene is well known for her dedicated involvement in the Tenants Harbor Baptist Church. Over the years she has taught Sunday School classes, Good News Clubs, and has served as Treasurer. It is indeed a rare Sunday that she misses a worship service. Those close to her also know of her quiet and loving acts of charity and hospitality.

Helping someone in need, making a meal or offering a ride is second nature to Charlene. It's people like her who make living in St. George a real joy, and the Town thanks Charlene Black for her love and dedication to her community.

Town of Thomaston: Henry Carey

Henry "Hank" Carey is a staple amongst the Town of Thomaston. He has volunteered countless hours over the years as a member on the Budget Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Academy Board of Trustees. Hank continues to work as a Ballot Clerk at every election. All of his help is invaluable to this community.

Hank is a long time Mason and an active member of the Thomaston Federated Church.

He started teaching in 1957 at the Thomaston Academy. He had a long successful career in education from his start as a teacher, coaching sports, and retiring as the Principal at Thomaston Grammar School.

Hank is a true asset to the Town of Thomaston and its community would not be the same without him.

Town of Union: John Gibbons

The Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors John Gibbons for commendable community service.

John has served on the Ordinance Consolidation Committee, Midcoast Economic Development Committee, Board of Selectmen, and has served as a Director of RSU 40.

John is being recognized for his great achievements and honors he has brought upon this community with the Maine Spirit of America Tribute.

Town of Washington: Wesley Daniel

Wesley Daniel has served numerous years as a Selectman of the Town of Washington, including many as Select Board Chair.

He has done so much to help the people of his Town over that span.

In addition to everything he does for Washington, Wes also annually volunteers many hours of his time to play a huge role in the Unity Common Ground Country Fair.

Town of Vinalhaven: Waste Watchers

Vinalhaven found themselves overwhelmed with the costs of waste disposal and recognized the imperative need to reduce that waste stream and eliminate its negative affect on our environment. A group of local volunteers offered to explore the alternatives and that group through selfless and remarkable dedication to the task at hand. They successfully brought the transformative reality of Single Stream Recycling to the citizens of Vinalhaven.

Vinalhaven Waste Watchers are Hillary Bunker, Eric Davis, Amy Lear, Pat Lundholm. Gabe McPhail and Anna Poe. They are being recognized for outstanding achievements with the 2020 Vinalhaven Spirit of American Foundation Tribute.