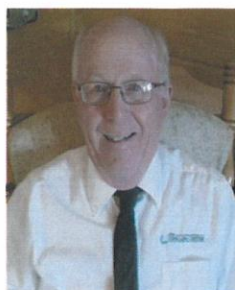


## New York State Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Day Recognition

We would like to thank you for submitting nominations for the 2021 New York State Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Day Recognition Event. Through an anonymous process, the Senior Advisory Council chose **Terry Barber and Joan Degener from Fort Ann.**

### *Congratulations Terry Barber!*



It is no surprise that Terry Barber was chosen as an 'Older New Yorker'. Helping others was a way of life for his parents, Clifford and Nedra Barber of Keeseville. Terry

was brought up in the small town, and graduated from Keeseville Central School. He chose to attend SUNY Plattsburgh, as the college was known for its excellent teacher education program, and it was close to home. His parents didn't have the extra money needed for Terry and his sister to finance their educations, so it was up to them to work at their summer jobs to pay their tuition, while commuting to classes from home.

Terry did his student teaching in both Harrison Avenue and Tanglewood schools in South Glens Falls. When he was offered a choice of three grades at Fort Ann Central School, he chose fifth grade, and never 'graduated' from that level for the next 33 years!

As is typical of many educators, Terry was employed in the summer months as well. Over the years he worked in multiple positions at Ausable Chasm, a NYS Park Ranger at the Million Dollar Beach in Lake George, a driver for Freihofer Bakery, a firewood distributor for Valley View Firewood, a real estate agent, and a store clerk at Aspland's Store.

Terry met his wife Maureen in 1974 and they married five years later. They are the proud parents of three children – Melissa, Colleen and Patrick. They have two grandsons, Sam and Will. Their children all live in the Boston area.

Safety has always been a big concern of Terry's. While teaching at Fort Ann, he served as the safety chairman for the elementary school and co-chaired a cystic fibrosis bike-a-thon. While teaching his fifth-graders valuable lessons in petitioning and government, he helped his students become community volunteers by petitioning the State of New York to create a safer intersection on Route 149 in the Town of Fort Ann – where over 20,000 cars travel a day – one of the busiest highways in the state. The state agreed to install a yellow caution light, which has undoubtedly prevented a number of accidents. More recently, Terry's research and efforts were instrumental in the Fort Ann village speed limited being reduced from 40 to 35 mph.

Anyone who has served on a rescue squad realizes the great commitment of time and energy it takes to serve others. Terry is now a life member of the Fort Ann EMS, having served the rescue squad in various capacities over the 35 years – as an EMT, First Aid Captain, president, vice president, treasurer, board member and CPR instructor. Back in the early 80's, when you could purchase a new ambulance for \$50,000, he was instrumental in coordinating that fund drive.

When Terry wasn't teaching in his fifth grade classroom, he was helping out his fellow teachers by serving in various capacities as a member of the Fort Ann Teachers' Association, including president, vice president, treasurer, negotiator and grievance representative.

Terry has been an active member in his community, including trustee for the Village of Fort Ann, and as a member of

the Knights of Columbus, BPOE Elks, and Washington County Hazmat team. He serves as a member of the Washington County Traffic Safety Board and is a Board of Director for the Washington County Home for Aged Women. He has been a devoted parishioner of St. Ann's Church for over 40 years, serving as trustee, parish council president, Extraordinary minister and usher.

Terry retired from teaching 17 years ago, and enjoys keeping busy with his three part-time jobs – distributing advertising for Ausable Chasm to 350 places in the Adirondacks; as a courier for Community Bank, and as a Transportation Concierge for The Conkling Center – providing door-to-door service for 55+ seniors to medical appointments, grocery stores, etc.

Over the years Terry has enjoyed travel – whether it be in his various occupations or driving to his children's sporting and academic events – but he always preferred to be behind the wheel in doing so – airplane flights were not his favorite mode of transportation. Ironically, in 1986 he was enamored with the thought of being the first teacher in space, and applied for the ill-fated NASA Teacher in Space Project.

When Terry was asked about what advice he might give to other seniors about volunteering, he said "do what your heart tells you to do – we love life and enjoy doing for others."



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021