

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

We would like to thank you for submitting nominations for the 2022 New York State Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Day Recognition Event. The Office for Aging Senior Advisory Council recognizes **Dale Grinnell from Fort Ann and Deborah Beahan from Hudson Falls.**



Dale Grinnell was born at Glens Falls Hospital to Wilbur and Eunice Grinnell and grew up in various Washington County towns including Hartford, Fort Ann, and the Hamlet of Kingsbury. Dale attended a one-room schoolhouse and grew up

working on his family's 250 head dairy farm, named Wilbur Grinnell and Sons Dairy Farm. Dale and his family also had a Rodeo arena, and he was trick-riding at the age of 7.

In 1965, he moved to Fort Ann and started working at Finch-Pruyn Paper in Glens Falls, New York and retired from there after 35 years. Dale married Coral in 1974 and he has a total of 6 children. In addition to his children Debbie, Deanna, Dennis, Donna, Yvonne, and Stephen, he has several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dale believes he "passed down" his desire of community service to his children, to include his daughter Yvonne who served as a missionary in Africa for 5 years and his daughter Debbie who served in the army for 18 years.

Dale has helped people his entire life and has always been active in community events. He is a representative of the Finch-Pruyn Retirees' Association. He is the treasurer of the Washington County Historical Society, they nominated him to be the administrator of historical markers. Dale oversees and maintains historical markers throughout Washington County. He is the vice president of the Fort Ann Historical Society and was a contributor to the Fort Ann Historical book titled "300 Years of History," which was published in 2007. Dale was active in the citizens' group which worked to save Battle Hill, by assisting in getting grants for the project. He was also elected by the Fort Ann town board to be on the Cemetery Committee.

Dale is actively involved in the Cornerstone Bible Church in Fort Ann as a Deacon and manager of their food pantry. Dale has overseen the church's food pantry for many years and takes great pride making sure food is getting to the people in need throughout his community. He coordinates food deliveries to homebound senior citizens and if he is unable to find a volunteer to deliver the food, he and his wife will deliver the food themselves. During the pandemic, Dale and his wife were successful in keeping the food pantry open while taking necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Dale is always willing to help anyone that is in need, no matter their situation. One instance of this is when he assisted someone experiencing personal issues that could have ended tragically. Dale shared that he talked the individual through their trauma and connected the individual to the necessary resources that were needed to help the person.

Dale shared "it is rewarding helping people in various situations but helping the senior citizens in my community that need food, through the Cornerstone Bible Church food pantry is the most gratifying". He shared that he likes to "work behind the scenes" and that he does not seek public recognition.

Dale was asked, what advice he would give for other New Yorkers about volunteering? Dale stated he uses the quote his father passed on to him: "If you are going to help someone, don't do it for money or a thank you. Do it because you want to help them. If you wait for a thank you – you will be disappointed".