

Terence R. Smith

When determining recipients of the Special Service Award, the Alumni Board loves to honor people for whom service is a way of life and not a way to build a resume'. We want alumni who will inspire our students to serve from the heart. Terry Smith fits this bill completely. He does not measure his service by memberships and organizations; he is truly driven to help others any way he can.

A little background is in order. A life-long resident of Ticonderoga, Terry graduated as a member of the Class of 1965. He attended Morrisonville Ag and Tech, earning an Associate's Degree in Business. Upon graduation, duty called and Terry enlisted in the Navy. During his navy years, Terry married Chris Morton (class of 1964.) This successful partnership was formed in 1968-do the math. They have one child, Jennifer Smith Cullingford (class 1988) who now lives and works in Colorado. After military service ended, Terry went to work for International Paper Company, eventually getting involved in Customer Service, coordinating clients' needs with mill production. Terry retired from the Mill in 2009.

After military service and customer service, Terry made community service a focus of his life. To know Terry is to know that he loves hands- on projects. One of his first missions was to take on rescue and restoration of the Ticonderoga Liberty Pole. You may recall that the Liberty Pole started as an Eagle Scout project during the Bicentennial and was located at the entrance of the Bicentennial Park. Unfortunately, due to neglect, the pole had become an eyesore and a safety hazard and was removed and placed at the Town Shed. It was Terry who found it, cleaned and repainted it, and arranged its relocation to its present site on the rise between LaChute Falls and Legacy Park. Serving as a member of the Town's Sign Committee, Terry also took it upon himself to keep the Route 22/Montcalm Street information booth looking good.

Terry has also been able to turn his love of local history into a way to serve the community. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Ticonderoga Heritage Museum and, now it's president, he has worked countless hours on projects like: removing cast iron radiators from the 1888 Building to help prepare

rooms for new exhibits, assisting in the re-wiring of the second floor of the building in order to convert it to a scanning and collection area, keeping the landscaping trimmed and weeded, and painting and repairing windows. When he isn't trimming the arbor vitae, you can also find Terry drawing up agendas, checking that the employees are getting their breaks, and providing positive leadership on numerous other projects in an encouraging, motivational "I've got a question for you" approach. The other Board members will attest that Terry has a lot of questions.

It seems that Terry is always there to help someone. He is a member of Angel Connection and the Knights of Columbus. But what people don't know is that he volunteers his time to assist friends opening and closing their camps and getting their boats ready for summer. He also checks on those camps and boats in the wintertime- never wanting, or expecting, reward. For years, Terry has assisted an aging White Hall farm family maintain their maple syrup and dairy operations.

Terry admits that his close relative Charles "Gusher" Smith, with his life-long commitment to scouting, served as a role model for service, but his motivation is deeper than that. In Terry's own words, "I like people, all kinds of people; believe me, a lot of my friends would not like each other."

All of this service cannot be just because Chris wants him to get out of the house. Terry Smith epitomizes that quiet, selfless willingness to help others that is a model not only for our future alumni, but for all of us. It is because of this quality that the Ticonderoga Alumni Association is honored to present Terry Smith, class of 1965, a special Sentinel, with the Special Service Award.

Ticonderoga Alumni Association's Special Service Award

Speech Given by Alex Smith on July 27, 2018

