

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON AWARDS PROGRAM



February 27, 2012

BROTHERHOOD AWARD

Reverend Alex Crittenden

The Brotherhood award is given to a person or persons who have displayed leadership in fostering understanding and promoting harmony and good will among all. Reverend Alex Crittenden is a wonderful example of such qualities.

For 33 years, Mr. Crittenden has served in the Port Huron Area School District – 8 years as a teacher, 19 years as Assistant Principal and 6 years as a Principal. As an African American man, he was a visible role model for boys and adolescents and took on the role of fathering and mentoring countless young males. He officially retired in 2002, but has continued to substitute teach in order to provide young men with a positive male figure in their lives. Not only does he help them understand what a real man is (character) and isn't (outward appearance), he has encouraged higher education and personal responsibility.

Reverend Crittenden was ordained in 1988 and has fostered a spirit of Brotherhood in the faith community as well. His past and present memberships and community service include being a lifetime member of the NAACP, a Board Member of Operation Transformation, a Board Member for SONS Outreach Ministries and serving on the SC4 Minority Affairs Council. He formerly served on the Teen Pregnancy Council and volunteered for the Big Brother organization.

Reverend Crittenden co-founded the Port Huron Scholarship Assistance Program about 15 years ago, which gives financial assistance to young people attending college. He and his wife, Ruby, also co-founded the “Partners Together” couples ministry. For many years, this group held monthly meetings to teach principles for healthy marriages as they support and encourage couples.

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Throughout his service and affiliations, Alex Crittenden has worked to strengthen diversity awareness. He is a central figure to be considered when there is need of a facilitator for racial reconciliation. However, his greatest asset is being able to work one-on-one with individuals, young and old, to encourage, teach, mentor and build bridges. He is a very giving, unselfish person with a special heart for young people. We congratulate Reverend Alex Crittenden and thank him for making “brotherhood” a lifetime commitment.

CIVIC AWARD

Jacquelyn Hanton

The Civic award is bestowed upon a person/business/organization that has significantly contributed time, talent or investment to make Port Huron a better place to live, work and play. Jackie Hanton is certainly attempting to do just that!

Chair of the Blue Water Young Professionals and member of the Blue Meets Green Communications Committee and serving as part of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Safe Horizons and the arts and culture community, Jackie has a passion to see Port Huron become to others everything what we know it is and can be! Rather than sit back and wait to see what happens, this young go-getter wow'd our community with her enthusiasm. As a young professional herself, Jackie was instrumental in forming the Blue Water Young Professionals and creating an action plan that will foster positive attitudes and initiate and support change in our community. The Blue Water Young Professionals focus on collaboration with like-minded partners and help populate the downtown area with the desirable business activity, entertainment and cool ambiance our community needs. Jackie, and the various groups she is involved with, is getting the word out – encouraging residents to be knowledgeable, to be engaged and to be supportive. Who can't succeed with a mission like that?

Christopher Gearhart, who nominated Jackie, says she has “impeccable character and is greatly respected among her peers and community”. We couldn't agree more.

We applaud Jackie for her can-do attitude, her positive, enthusiastic spirit and her willingness to lead the way to a better community.

CULTURAL AWARD

Lee A. Jones

The Cultural award is given to a person or group who has encouraged the appreciation and advancement of the arts or heritage of Port Huron and its citizens.

Lee Jones has certainly done that.

When City Manager Bruce Brown first moved to Port Huron from Grand Rapids, he noticed that he missed the visual arts that were scattered throughout the Grand Rapids area and he set about to find how that could be remedied.

Through making contact with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, he learned that Lee Jones was an avid art enthusiast and supporter and he sought Lee out for his assistance. Lee wholeheartedly believed that our community could benefit from having a more visible art presence in the community. He formed a committee to work together toward finding ways to promote the arts. One way was to explore the possibility of finding sponsors who would sponsor art sculptures which would be placed either downtown or within walking distance of downtown. These 15 sculptures can now be seen throughout the community and, whether you are fans of all of them or not, they certainly got people talking! Without Lee's willingness to become involved in this effort, it would not have happened.

We believe our community has benefited from Lee's leadership on the Blue Water Arts Council and his enthusiasm and commitment to downtown Port Huron is greatly appreciated. We gratefully present him with this Spirit of Port Huron cultural award.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS AWARD

Earl Smith Distributing Co.

The Economic Progress award is given to a person or business that has invested or encouraged an investment in the community that has stabilized or enhanced the economic climate and quality of life in Port Huron.

When prohibition ended in 1933, Earl C. Smith, company founder, was granted the fourth license for the wholesale distribution of beer in Michigan. Stroh's was the first beer the company sold and delivered, followed by Budweiser in 1938. Robert A. Smith, Earl's son, managed the business after his father until 1987, when the current owner, Robert E. "Bob" Smith took the reins. Now, Bob's three sons, Erik, Justin and Andrew all work in the business, representing the fourth generation.

While distributing beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages to more than 600 retail customers in the counties of St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola, Earl Smith Distributing Company has also distinguished itself as a community supporter of events and local charities in the Blue Water Area. They take an active and integral role in local events and we greatly appreciate the generosity shown to our community.

Recently, Earl Smith Distributing purchased and extensively renovated an additional building in Port Huron to enable them to consolidate their St. Clair Township operation with their Port Huron plant, which will better accommodate current needs as well as future growth. We thank them for the confidence they've shown in Port Huron and for the generosity they've shown the community.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Donald Lee

The Good Neighbor award is given to a person or persons who have gone out of their way in an unsolicited manner to help a neighbor in an extraordinary manner. Don Lee has certainly made an impression on his neighbors!

Only 70 years young, Don Lee is a coordinator for the Seaway East-West neighborhood watch group. He has walked and ridden his bicycle many miles in his neighborhood encouraging people to become involved and to care about their community. He is the first person to volunteer to help anyone who needs a hand removing blight and has done everything from cutting grass to making forms and pouring cement. He has worked hard to recognize any of his neighbors who are working to improve their homes with the Pride in Port Huron program. He recently decided to get the neighborhood watches to walk in the Santa Parade, hoping to bring awareness to this program.

Don and his wife, Joan, are people who, when asked what they get out of all their hard work, say only they want to make our town a better place to live. Don has done just that – giving his best to improve not just his quality of life, but all those around him.

Today we thank Don for his efforts to improve his neighborhood. He is living proof that one person can make a positive difference, and if we all work together, great things can be achieved. Thank you, Don.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Carolyn Crowe

The Lifetime Achievement award bestows special recognition on the rare individual who has consistently and unselfishly given an extraordinary amount of time and personal effort over the course of many years toward the betterment of their community and fellow man. Carolyn Crowe's lifetime of service has been exemplary.

Carolyn has lived and worked in Port Huron for over 35 years. She has spent her life trying to make a difference either through her employment or through her activities and volunteerism in the community. While working several different positions, Carolyn found she most enjoyed working as a "community relations manager" which led her to be a representative for the United Way campaign and the Port Huron Area School district representative for the Students School-To-Work program.

For many years, Carolyn was employed by Blue Water Habitat for Humanity where she was director of the development program which included community outreach. This involved her with the opportunity to coordinate with many community groups. Carolyn is currently employed at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in their Foundation/Fund Development office. Her mission there is to raise funds and awareness for the Missions of Mercy, which are to help those in need and provide comprehensive and quality healthcare services to all people, even those unable to pay for services. This, of course, is right up Carolyn's alley!

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Carolyn is very active with Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Blue Water Women's League, Girl Scouts-Michigan Waterways Council, Mercy Hospital Foundation, First Night-Port Huron, Woman's Life Club 757 and Therapy Dogs International.

Although too numerous to mention, Carolyn volunteers for many organizations and has received many awards for community service. It is obvious that our community has been blessed to have such a giving, selfless member and we thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of others.

YOUTH SERVICE

Nithin R. Tamma

The Youth Service award is bestowed upon a young person who has displayed outstanding citizenship, principally through community service activities.

Nominated by Port Huron Area School District Superintendent, Ron Wollen, Nithin is certainly deserving of the Youth Service award. Nithin is a senior at Port Huron Northern High School and has researched cellular and molecular biology for the past three years. During that time, he has earned prestigious state and national awards for his accomplishments in this research.

Nithin started the Science Mini Masters Club at Fort Gratiot Middle School to pass on his passion for scientific studies to younger students. He met with students weekly during the 2010-11 school year to help them with their independent research projects. As a result of the club, he was also able to initiate a school-wide science fair that attracted more participants than the district science fair had seen the year before.

Nithin has also created a website for elementary and middle school students to provide them with a venue to explore our local area's history as well as their family's place in it. This website, called "Culture Connect", helps students create their own page. They can then research historical information pertinent to their own history and culture.

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In addition to all of this, Nithin also spends time as a volunteer at the Museum of Arts and History. He participates in these volunteer efforts while earning a 4.0 grade point average at both Port Huron Northern High School and in his college classes.

Nithin's accomplishments are extraordinary and we are pleased to present him with the Youth Service award today.

SPIRIT OF PORT HURON

PREVIOUS YEARS' WINNERS

BROTHERHOOD (added in 1993)

- 2011 - Reverend Alex Crittenden
- 2009 - Donald F. Daniels
- 2007 - Jack C. Heck, DDS
- 2006 - William R. Johnston
- 2005 - Reverend Allen White, Jr.
- 2004 - Reverend John L. Portis
- 2003 - Reverend Martin Doorn
- 2002 - Reverend Thomas J. Seppo
- 2001 - Robert & Elizabeth Rock
- 2000 - Helen R. Weischler
- 1999 - Mary Pochodylo
- 1998 - David & Donna Schwartz
- 1997 - Tyrone Burrell & Daniel Lundblad
- 1996 - Howard H. Colby
- 1995 - William "Buddy" Sutherland, Jr.
- 1994 - Marilyn Abernathy
- 1993 - K. C. Norman

CIVIC

- 2011 - Jacquelyn Hanton
- 2009 - Alice Rieves & Port Huron Hospital Foundation
- 2007 - Port Huron Beautification Commission
- 2006 - Nigar Hussain, Mike Geno
- 2005 - Franklin "Chip" Mortimer
- 2004 - Sharon Bender
- 2003 - James Currier, The Rotary Club of Port Huron
- 2002 - Carl A. Moss
The Salvation Army's Youth Basketball Program
- 2001 - James Acheson
- 2000 - SEMCO Energy, Inc.
- 1999 - Bethany Belanger, Dr. Daniel Wilhelm
- 1998 - Albert L. Renaker
- 1997 - Charles Meeker, Rev. Kevin Zaborney,
Jon Howard
- 1996 - Ila Shoulders
- 1995 - Bernadine N. Noetzel, Patricia L. Balogh
- 1994 - Ervin Kreutziger, Community Paint Works
- 1993 - William A. Pierce
- 1992 - Eleger Harvey,
North American Benefit Association,
League of Women Voters
- 1991 - Howard Sloan, Dorothy Porrett
- 1990 - Kenneth Thomas, Mid-City Nutrition Center,
Richard Cogley, posthumously
- 1989 - Blue Water Women's League,
American Red Cross & Volunteers
- 1988 - Frank J. McCabe & John Wismer
- 1987 - John W. Shier & Blue Water Garden Club
- 1986 - Eugene Moak, Bessie Mueller, Helen David

CULTURAL

- 2011 - Lee A. Jones
- 2009 - The Port Huron Museum
- 2007 - Michael R. Artman
- 2006 - Peggy Payton
- 2005 - *First Night* (Laurie Sample-Wynn
& Karin Mayer)
- 2004 - David Teeple
- 2003 - Port Huron Museum Music Makers
- 2002 - Robert Hanford
- 2001 - Glenn A. Ulrich
- 2000 - Andy Pochodylo,
Anna Jacobs Garrett
- 1999 - Gerry & Mino Kramer
- 1998 - Marguerite I. Stanley
- 1997 - Jake & Edna Wade
- 1996 - Cindy Lowrie
- 1995 - Sushma Reddy, M.D.
- 1994 - Walter & Mary Brooks &
Donna Galbraith
- 1993 - Harry & Rose Burgess &
Port Huron Town Hall
- 1992 - Lynne Secory
- 1991 - Capt. Ted Richardson &
Huron Lightship crew
- 1990 - Michele Duffy Kramer
- 1989 - Robert & Sharon Bender
- 1988 - Charles Stephens
- 1987 - Robert E. Dierks, Marcia Haynes
- 1986 - Mary Davis, Stephen Williams,
Evelyn Sawyer,
George & Kay Duffy

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

- 2011 - Earl Smith Distributing Company
- 2009 - Kinney Management Group/Icehawks
- 2007 - Georgina & Dave Witt
- 2006 - ALD Thermal Treatment, Inc.
- 2005 - Mary Maxim, Inc.
- 2004 - Meriturn Partners
- 2003 - Ted Pozios &
Citizens First Savings Bank
- 2002 - Collins & Aikman
- 2001 - Bill Deligianis & Leo Deligianis
- 2000 - Royal Oak Boring Company
- 1999 - Huron Lady River Tours
- 1998 - MainStreet Port Huron
- 1997 - Donaldson Company, Inc.
- 1996 - HP Pelzer Inc.
- 1995 - Waltec American Forging, Inc.
- 1994 - Dualex, Inc.
- 1993 - Frederick S. Moore
P. J. Wallbank Springs, Inc.
- 1992 - Gerald J. Kramer, Jr.
Davidson Interior Trim
- 1991 - Petri Inc., Citadel Mall Antiques Group
- 1990 - John W. Wirtz
- 1989 - Isaac Lang, Jr., Sperry's & Brian Harris
- 1988 - E. B. Eddy Paper Co.
- 1987 - Mueller Brass Co., Carol VanCamp
- 1986 - Industrial Development Corporation

GOOD NEIGHBOR

- 2011 - Donald Lee
- 2009 - No nominees
- 2007 - No nominees
- 2006 - Carolyn Holley
- 2005 - Joe Sharba, Jack Denomy, David Robinson
- 2004 - No nominees
- 2003 - Jerry & Alice Landschoot
- 2002 - Al Gaulin
- 2001 - George & Donna Harris / Kevin & Amy Banker
- 2000 - Rogelio Lopes Rodriguez
- 1999 - Betty Oberstar
- 1998 - Effie Crawford
- 1997 - Mike Abro & Louis Angerbrandt
- 1996 - Shirley Kincaid
- 1995 - Robert & Mary Bright
- 1994 - Adopt-a-Park Program
- 1992 - Blue Water Citizens Against Crime
- 1991 - Rev. Fred D. Butler, Jr.
- 1990 - Clarence Daggett
- 1989 - Douglas Treadgold, Patricia Benedict
- 1988 - Henry & Virginia Meyers

HEROISM

- 2011 - None selected
- 2009 - Ethan Booms, William Muncell
- 2007 - Nick Podgers, Alex Christensen,
Aaron Christensen
- 2006 - George Stracener
- 2005 - Nicole Perugia & Jamie Lynch
- 2004 - Barbara Kelly and John J. Smith
- 2003 - Wayne Arnold
- 2002 - Charles Marzolf
- 2001 - David Losinski, Joseph Murphy,
Mike Preston
- 2000 - Herbert Robbins IV
- 1999 - Fawn Williams
- 1998 - George D. Main
- 1997 - Charles McCoy
- 1995 - Kenneth & Meredith Washington,
Donald H. Kress & Scott A. Kress
- 1993 - Gregory Roy, Steve Gordon
- 1991 - Liz Nishimiyia
- 1990 - Gerald E. Bateman
- 1989 - James A. Brown
- 1987 - Charles D. Burge. Daniel J. McVety
Brenda Stoner
- 1986 - Dennis Thomas, Robert Lawrence

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (added in 1996)

- 2011 - Carolyn Crowe
- 2009 - George Y. Duffy, Jr.
- 2007 - Mary J. Brooks
- 2006 - Glenn Weaver
- 2005 - Lawrence Dean Fredendall
- 2004 - Morris Snider
- 2003 - Frank Gerbig, Jr.
- 2002 - Larry J. Moeller, Sr.
- 2001 - Betty Smith
- 2000 - Glen London
- 1999 - Clayton Berdan
- 1998 - Helen David
- 1997 - John F. Wismer
- 1996 - Mary A. Davis

YOUTH SERVICE (added in 1995)

- 2011 - Nithin R. Tumma
- 2009 - Ryan Tibble
- 2007 - Angelina Taylor
- 2006 - Tiffany Hering
- 2005 - Victoria Castillo
- 2004 - Abby McIntyre
- 2003 - Rahim Merchant & Rahil Merchant
- 2002 - Joseph Marcero & Karri Whipple
- 2001 - Melissa Marcero
- 2000 - William Worden & Gary Jones
- 1999 - Tiffany Jacobs
- 1998 - Inga A. Hofer
- 1996 - Karen Grinder
- 1995 - Tinna Moue

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR (added in 1994)

- 2001 - Discontinued
- 2000 - David Lowrie (For 1999)
- 1999 - Ray Dickinson (For 1998)
- 1998 - Doug Cole (For 1997)
- 1997 - Thomas J. Ruedisueli (For 1996)
- 1996 - Diana L. Tramski (For 1995)
- 1995 - Sgt. Ronald Donaghy (For 1994)
- 1994 - William Robinson (For 1993)