

Bedford's Citizen of the Year - 2007 - John Filios

John was born in Westfield, MA in 1916 of Italian immigrants. He married Eleanor A. Gould in 1948 in Spokane, WA. Eleanor died May 27 this year. Their four children are John G, Eric N, Dr. Elena Filios, and Margaret (Peggy) Filios.

After college John joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1967 at Hanscom AFB.

Throughout his life as a Citizen of Bedford John has contributed to the Town in many generous and diverse ways. He has been a volunteer for the past 35 years. In 1968, The Bedford Selectmen appointed John to represent the town on a state planning committee, to survey the greater Boston for a possible location for another major airport to supplement Logan.

John's major interests have been on the historic side. They are: The Historic Preservation Commission, (HPC) the Historical Society, The Friends of the Job Lane House and The Friends of Depot Park. As a founding member and director of Depot Park, he was a major contributor to the proposal in 1995, establishing the park. Working with the HPC, he was able to obtain a matching grant which resulted in a pictorial sign at the Depot and helped form the Friends of Depot Park.

As Chair of the HPC, he obtained a grant from the State Historical Commission to process a "whole town" historical survey. John negotiated the purchase of a key piece of land next to the Wilson Mill Site at a very reasonable price.

John joined the Bedford Minutemen in 1967 and served in positions leading up to Captain in 1979-1980. In that year with the floods in Concord, the Red Cross asked John to call out the minutemen for flood relief, and twelve (12) men answered the call with high wheeled trucks and boats. A special note is that the Company greeted Queen Elizabeth II, when she arrived in Boston in 1979.

John revisited the by-laws, serving as the sub-committee for flags and medals, serving on many other committees. John organized and managed the Bedford Minuteman Scholarship Fund that he got incorporated in 1991, and served as President until this year. The fund now gives two scholarships of \$1200 each year. Help comes from the Christmas Luminaries sales. John has participated in every Pole Capping event held here in Bedford, established by John Ahern. This served to kick-off the Patriot's Day events, not competing with Concord and Lexington. From the early 70's to the present, John has been a volunteer that helped the Job Lane Property. In the early 70's, as the Town first acquired the house, the Minutemen were asked to refurbish

the "Great Hall, the main room for activities. The crew dealt with a bad floor, sagging hair plaster and spent \$300 and 300 hours. The facilities were done, thanks to John, and the house could then be opened to the public.

John along with Lloyd Walker built storm doors, for the house and barn, and John built the first grape arbor for the Concord grape. He supervised eagle scouts projects including two bridges over the brook. As a member of HPC, John led the efforts to undertake major restorations and repairs recently done to the Job Lane House.

John is a life member of the Legion. For this and all that is written and not written here, please join us in congratulating our 2007 Citizen of the Year.