Rotary
Club of Plattsburgh
SUNRISE

The North Country Honor Flight Named 2025 Spirit of Ianelli Award Honoree

Plattsburgh, New York (July 6, 2025) – The Sunrise Rotary Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival Committee is pleased to announce that the North Country Honor Flight has been selected as the 2025 Spirit of Ianelli Award honoree.

What is the Spirit of Ianelli Award?
The Spirit of Ianelli Award was established in 2010 in honor of the late Mayor John Ianelli, former Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh and co-founder of the Mayor's Cup Regatta in 1978. This honor is bestowed upon one individual or group of individuals – sailor or landlubber – who exemplifies the same "community does matter" spirit that inspired Mayor Ianelli over 45 years ago, empowering our lake community to thrive, not only on race day, but every day.

The North Country Honor Flight is a 100% volunteer-led non-profit organization dedicated to honoring local veterans by providing them with free trips to visit our nation's war memorials in Washington, D.C. Flights began in 2013 and to date 61 Honor Flights have taken over 900 veterans to Washington, D.C. These trips offer veterans the opportunity to reflect on their service, bond with fellow service members and receive recognition for their service.

Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary has been a proud supporter of the North Country Honor Flight from the beginning. In addition, several past and current Sunrise Rotarians are veterans and have made the trip to Washington, D.C. along with fellow service members. Sunrise Rotarian found their stories and memories of the day to be extremely powerful and very moving.

Wanda Carroll, President of the Sunrise Rotary Club, will formally present the award to Barrie Finnegan, Executive Director of the North Country Honor Flight, along with other members of the organization, at the Mayor's Cup Regatta Awards ceremony taking place at the Plattsburgh City Marina on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 6:00pm. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend the outdoor ceremony and show their support of the North Country Honor Flight volunteers.

(Continued)

Past Honorees

The past honorees of the Spirit of Ianelli Award include:

2024 - Mike Collin
2023 - Mia Taylor
2022- Julia Devine and Amy Guglielmo
2021 - Thom and Betty Loreman
2020 - Local Frontline Essential Workers
2019 - The Plattsburgh Air Park Restoration Group of Volunteers
2018 - Leigh and Stephens Mundy
2017 - Janet Duprey
2016 - Gordie Little
2015 - Local Law Enforcement of Clinton County, NY
2014 - Kit and Sally Booth
2013 - Bob Wallet
2012 - Roger Harwood
2011 - Matt Spiegel
2010 - Bob Pooler

***

About Sunrise Rotary and the Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival

The Sunrise Rotary Club is proud to host the 48th annual Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival, Plattsburgh's most time-honored and highly anticipated summer tradition on Lake Champlain, on July 12, 2025. Sunrise Rotary hosts the Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival as a way for our community to come together and celebrate summer in the North Country and to enjoy the beauty of the Champlain Valley and the majestic Lake Champlain. Sponsor donations and proceeds from the sales of the highly popular Mayor's Cup T-shirts help Sunrise Rotary support community-based projects, such as the Sunrise Rotary Pavilion at Wilcox Dock, the Sunrise Rotary Gazebo at the Samuel D. Champlain monument, the Max Moore Tree House at the SRT Trailhead and providing wheelchair accessibility to areas such as the Plattsburgh City Beach, Camp Tapawingo and the LaPierre Lane Park. Go to www.mayorscup.com for an up-to-date calendar of events for this year's Mayor's Cup Festival and to order Mayor's Cup t-shirts.

To learn more about the Sunrise Rotary Club, the community projects the club has helped to develop, the organizations we support locally and around the world, and how to become a member please visit www.plattsburghsunriserotary.org or contact the club at rotaryclub1982@gmail.com.

7/6/25

NORTH COUNTRY
Honor Flight
NEW YORK