

The Vermont Secretary of State's Office is excited to announce the 2016 Vermont Public Service Awards. Every five years, the Vermont Public Service Award program honors individuals who have served as elected or appointed local officials, or as fire or police service, for 20 or more years. This honorary program was first established in 1999 and has recognized thousands of deserving Vermonters throughout the years. The goal of the program is to provide public service officials the recognition they deserve and highlight the vital role of public servants in the ongoing success of our cities and towns. We hope it also serves to encourage all citizens to take a more active role in their local community.

Vermont's local officials are largely volunteers who serve their communities year after year; often without pay or adequate pay and without constant applause. They run our elections, set the grand list, and determine appeals. They keep the roads in good repair and passable even during the toughest Vermont winters. They maintain local records and help plan for the growth of our communities. They keep our towns safe, fight fires, respond to emergencies, serve on school boards, and many other vital and necessary roles which many of us may take for granted. They are a gift to our communities and deserve to be celebrated for their enduring work.

To honor these hardworking Vermont public officials, Secretary of State Jim Condos and other Legislators will be travelling around Vermont to host awards ceremonies in most counties throughout the state. Nominees will be receiving letters in the mail informing them of their award and recognition during these ceremonies. At the ceremony, they will receive a pin and certificate. The awards ceremonies are open to the public and all community members are welcome to attend and show their thanks to their public officials.

2016 Vermont Public Service Awards Ceremonies will be held on the following days:

**April 5<sup>th</sup> at Middlebury American Legion Hall:** Addison County:

**April 14<sup>th</sup> at South Burlington High School:** Chittenden County

**April 28<sup>th</sup> at Vermont Technical College:** Orange County and Northern Windsor County

**May 10<sup>th</sup> at Castleton College:** Rutland County & Northern Bennington County

**May 11<sup>th</sup> at Lyndon State College:** North East Kingdom (Orleans, Caledonia, and Essex)

**May 19<sup>th</sup> at Fairfield Central School:** Franklin County and Grand Isle

**May XX at Marlboro College:** Windham County and Southern Windsor County