

#### Invitation:

Your Board of Selectmen is asked to pick the local person, project or group to receive the 2019 Peru Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for outstanding community service using your own criteria and to honor the recipient (presumably with a resolution or proclamation) at your annual town meeting. We'll need to know about the recipient to facilitate an anticipated Fall event honoring all 2019 Spirit of America award winners throughout Oxford County.

Best/simplest strategy for most communities: choose the one to whom your annual town report is dedicated as Spirit of America winner and honor them (perhaps posthumously) at the annual town meeting – it's a well-attended event (great publicity for those honored) & is a nice tradition to which folks will look forward!

Your Selectboard may choose and honor the town's Spirit of America recipient each year without waiting to hear from us.

#### County event:

The 2019 privilege granted to Maine municipalities to choose Spirit of America Foundation Tribute winners expires on June 30. For any municipality not informing us of it's Spirit of America recipient by 6/30, it's county officials have permission to pick the 2019 winner. That sensible arrangement gives towns plenty of time to make a selection, helps counties with planning/preparing certificates for their annual Spirit of America event, and could ensure the county ceremony publicizes community service for each town.

#### Background:

Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME to encourage volunteerism & it allows the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute to be presented in the name of any Maine municipality. There is no fee involved, and local officials chose their community's 2018 Spirit of America winner in 150+ towns!

The first Spirit of America Foundation award was presented to Alma Jones by Augusta Mayor William Burney on Nov. 26, 1991. Maine Governors John Baldacci and Angus King and Maine Municipal Association Director Chris Lockwood are among many who have played key roles at one of the 500+ Spirit of America ceremonies over the years. You can find more info about the Foundation on website <https://www.spiroaft.com/gems> (where the 'Municipal Resolution' page has sample resolutions, and the 'Honored Ever' page lists towns' previous winners).

A municipality may achieve Spirit of America's Gold Distinction by presenting the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute at the annual town meeting or inauguration, during an annual community festival, or during National Volunteer Month (April). Qualifying towns are listed on the 'Gold Distinction' page at website <https://www.spiroaft.com/gems> (and you may find a link to this site in Maine Municipal's <https://www.memun.org> website under 'Recent Announcements').

2018 Gold Distinction towns included: Appleton, Arrowsic, Athens, Bath, Belgrade, Benton, Bethel, Bowdoinham, Brooks, Burnham, Cambridge, Canaan, Castle Hill, Chapman, Chelsea, China, Damariscotta, Dayton, Dedham, Dixfield, Dresden, Eliot, Embden, Fairfield, Farmingdale, Franklin, Freedom, Georgetown, Greene, Greenwood, Guilford, Hanover, Harmony, Hartland, Hiram, Hollis, Jackman, Jefferson, Knox, Kingfield, Lagrange, Lamoine, Leeds, Lewiston, Lincolnville, Lisbon, Livermore, Lyman, Machiasport, Madison, Mapleton, Mechanic Falls, Mercer, Merrill, Minot, Monmouth, Moose River, Moscow, Mount Desert, Mount Vernon, New Portland, Newcastle, Newfield, Nobleboro, Norridgewock, North Berwick, North Yarmouth, Oakland, Owls Head, Palermo, Palmyra, Paris, Peru, Phippsburg, Pittsfield, Pittston, Poland, Rangeley, Readfield, Richmond, Rome, Rumford, Sabattus, Saco, Sangerville, Searsport, Sedgwick, Shapleigh, Sidney, Skowhegan, Smithfield, Smyrna, Solon, South Bristol, St. Albans, Starks, Stockton Springs, Surry, Swanville, Temple, Troy, Vassalboro, Wales, Washington, Waterboro, Wayne, West Bath, West Gardiner, Whitefield, Willimantic, Windham, Winterport, Woodstock, Woolwich.

In any case, by June 30 please let us know the name, mailing address and an accomplishment of Peru's 2019 Spirit of America recipient and the occasion of your local award ceremony.

These past Spirit of America winners might trigger ideas for your selection:

Connor Barry, a youth, raised \$275 from Hot Chocolate sales and bought needy kids Xmas gifts. FHC, Inc. (a business) runs several community projects, including fundraisers for fire dept. & school.