



2020 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Awards Nomination Form

Please select your nominee's region:

Northeast Ohio

Nominating Organization

Organization Contact First Name: Robin

Organization Contact Last Name: Swoboda

Organization Contact Job Title: Director

Organization Name: Woollybear Festival

Organization Mailing Address: 678 Main Street

Organization City: Avon Lake

Organization State: Ohio

Organization ZIP Code: 44012

Organization Contact Phone Number: 555-555-5555

Organization Contact Email Address: ROBIN@EMAIL.COM

Nominee

Nominee First Name: Dick

Nominee Last Name: Goddard

Nominee Age: 88

Nominee Mailing Address: 123 Elm Street

Nominee City: Medina

Nominee State: Ohio

Nominee ZIP Code: 44256

Nominee Phone Number: 330-555-5555

Nominee Email Address:

1. **How many hours does the nominee volunteer per week, month or year?**
15 hours per week.
2. **How long has the nominee volunteered with this organization?**
He founded the festival in 1973.

(Continued Below)

3. Tell us about your nominee.

- **What outstanding volunteer accomplishments has the nominee achieved?**

Dick founded the Woollybear Festival in 1973. He is a beloved local weatherman, and he uses the black and orange woollybear caterpillar to forecast winter weather. The festival was first held as a PTA fundraiser in Birmingham in Erie County, and within a few years it outgrew the small town and moved to Vermillion. The Woollybear Festival is held every fall and is the largest one-day festival in Ohio. Attendance is now in the six-figure range every year, with hundreds of animals and dozens of marching bands in the parade.

Dick has been speaking out against animal abuse for decades. He attended and testified at many hearings in support of creating greater protections for animals and increasing penalties for those who abuse them. The governor of Ohio signed Goddard's Law in 2016, which made it a felony to abuse or neglect a companion animal and requiring a fine and prison time for those violating the law.

- **How does the nominee's character or work ethic set them apart?**

He is an Air Force veteran who served in Korea. His military service led him to a career in meteorology, starting with an assignment at the Severe Storm Forecast Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and then moving to the 6th Weather Squadron's mobile unit. He was later assigned to work at the Atomic Energy Commission during testing for the first full-yield hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Islands. After the military, Dick went to Kent State University and simultaneously worked for the Weather Bureau (now called the National Weather Service). His experience doing radio weather broadcasts led him to audition for Cleveland's KYW-TV in 1961, which he pursued rather than going for an interview with Walt Disney Studios.

Dick also loves sports and won four letters for football in high school, and he played football as a freshman at Kent State University. For four decades, he was the statistician for Cleveland Browns radio broadcasts. He has sung with the Cleveland Pops and performed the national anthem at various events.

Dick has had some health challenges over the past few years, but he has not stopped advocating for the four-foots, as he calls them, nor has he stopped participating in the Woollybear Festival. His sense of duty and responsibility to his country, community, and animals is inspiring. Dick is a generous and sincere man who will continue to work for the causes he believes in.

- **How does this volunteer meet challenges and/or make personal sacrifices to help others without regard for personal gain or recognition?**

Dick is well-known throughout Northeast Ohio and has won numerous newscaster awards. He would be just as active in animal rights if he weren't a celebrity, but because of his status he is able to bring attention to the things that matter most to him. Nothing he does is for personal gain or recognition. Even when he is not feeling well, he pushes himself to keep going and highlight causes that help so many. Dick's humble nature makes the significance of his impact even more impressive.

Two years after Goddard's law was passed, Dick, who was by then in his late 80s and using a walker, and his daughter Kimberly appeared in court with Richard Hill, a man who broke a car window to rescue two dogs from a locked, hot car. Hill was charged with criminal damaging. With Dick's support, he contacted a state senator about amending Goddard's Law to protect those who act in a similar fashion in the interest of saving an animal. Everybody who knows Dick understands that it is his desire to help animals that keeps him motivated no matter what personal struggles he may be enduring. Even when it's difficult or painful for him to move around, he knows he has more work to do. Everyone at the Woollybear Festival, APL, and County Shelter loves him and appreciates how much time and energy he puts into raising money and bringing attention to the cause. Dick is a wonderful, lovely man, and a joy to be around.

4. **Does this nominee volunteer at other organizations? If yes, which organizations?**

Dick is a passionate animal advocate. He volunteers for the Animal Protective League and hosts a yearly telethon on Channel 8 that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the APL. He also helps out at the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter by featuring adoptable animals every week on Channel 8.

5. **How did you find about the Senior Awards nomination process?**

- Senior Awards Postcard