

Manchester Elks Citizen of the Year Committee

Bob Bychoski

Molly Devanney

Gerry Gallo

Chris Malone

Kory Marvasti

Lynn Sottile

Lou Spadaccini

Chris Terry



The Manchester Elks Lodge 1893

is Proud to Honor

Gerry Gallo



2019 Citizen of the Year

Saturday, May 18, 2019

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Elks Lodge 30 Bissell Street Manchester

*The Manchester Lodge of Elks #1893 presents its
annual Citizen of the Year award to
Gerry Gallo.*

The award is given to a citizen who exhibits exemplary contributions in the areas of youth, veterans or community.

Gerry attended schools in Queens, and Hempstead NY before graduating from Hicksville High School in 1963 where he played football and lacrosse.

He enlisted and served in the US Army Infantry 1963-1965, and Army Reserve until 1969.

Gerry married his late wife Fran in 1967. They lived in West Islip, NY, where their oldest son Gerry was born. They moved to Bradford NH in 1970 and Hillsboro NH in 1972, where their youngest son Matthew was born. He belonged to the Hillsboro area Jaycees, where he served as Chapter President in 1980, receiving an Outstanding Chapter President Award. Gerry also became a member of the Hillsboro Lions Club.

The family moved to Manchester CT in 1985, and lived in Johnston, Rhode Island for a brief time before settling in Vernon CT.

He joined the Rockville Elks Lodge in 1993, served as Exalted Ruler in 1996, and again in 1997. He also served the Connecticut Elks Association as East District Membership Chairman in 1999 and State Public Relations Chairman in 2000, receiving a Grand Lodge 3rd Place Award for State Association Publication. Gerry served as Lodge Treasurer; was named Elk of the Year in 2008; and became an Honorary Founder of the Elks National Foundation in 1998. In 2008, transferred to the Manchester Elks Lodge where he served as an officer before becoming Exalted Ruler in 2012, and again in 2014. In 2015 he became Treasurer, and continues to serve in that position.

In 2014, Gerry was invited to serve as the Elks liaison on *The Wall that Heals Manchester* Committee. During the 18 months of planning, he met with countless veterans organizations to get ideas on how best to honor the Vietnam Veterans. He was in charge of planning the Opening, POW-MIA, Candlelight and Closing Ceremonies, along with the motorcycle escort of the "Wall", as well as planning several Lodge support activities.

Gerry serves as Chairman of the Lodge Veterans Service Committee, and until recently, the Citizen of the Year Committee. He was the liaison to the HOPE Initiative Committee and Manchester Rotary, and several Veterans Service and Community Organizations. He chaired or organized several community service events. He received the Connecticut Elks Association Veterans Volunteer Award, the Lifetime Achievement Presidential Volunteer Service Award, Grand Exalted Ruler Exemplary Service Award, Lodge Officer of the Year Award, and Lodge Special Recognition Award. He is a Permanent Benefactor of the Elks National Foundation.

His son Gerry L Gallo, his wife Shannon and granddaughter Allison live in Tolland. His granddaughter Meghan and her husband Ryan King and great granddaughter Austen, live in Enfield. His son Matthew and his wife Samantha live in Hillsboro, NH. His grandson Corey lives in Stafford.

His wife Frances who was always at his side for every event, passed away in 2018, after 51 wonderful years of marriage.

Program

6:30 PM

*Welcome to the Manchester
Lodge & Opening* Exalted Ruler Chris Terry

What is the Elks COY Award Former Exalted Ruler,
Tony Duarte

Pledge of Allegiance All in Attendance

Star Spangled Banner Sandra Lee

Invocation Rev. Kevin Cavanaugh

~ *Dinner* ~

Master of Ceremonies Mark Tweedie

Speakers Gerry Gallo Jr.
Bob Bycholski
Nate Agostinelli
Joel Johnson
Ed Mullen
Former Exalted Ruler, Tony Duarte

Presentations Jason Doucette
Cheri Pelletier

COY Recipient Remarks Gerry Gallo

Benediction Rev. Kevin Cavanaugh