



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

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Media Release

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County Executive McMahon Announces Older Americans Month Honorees

The month of May is proclaimed "Older Americans Month" in Onondaga County

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II is pleased to announce the Older Americans Month Honorees for 2020. The theme this year was "Make Your Mark." The honorees below have certainly done that in our community.

- **Co-Senior Citizens of the Year:**

Joseph Godley – Joe is a Vietnam Army and Reserves Veteran. He has spent decades giving back to the community where he worked and raised a family. For 25 years he helped run the Donnie Fielder Basketball Tournament for inner-city youth. Currently he volunteers at the Dunbar Association where he drives other seniors to the Center, to their medical appointments and to events. His smile lights up a room and once you meet Joe you will never forget him

Marvin Shandler – Marvin was the caregiver to his cousin, father and wife before they passed. For five years he has been a Hospice CNY Volunteer driving patients to appointments. He steps in to give their families a break whenever he can. He also volunteers for the American Red Cross, delivering blood and traveling with their Emergency Disaster Team. At the same time he manages to volunteer at the Temple Concord Food Pantry. Marvin is only happy when he is helping others.

- **Serving Seniors Honoree of the Year:**

Ruby Gilbert – For five years Ruby has volunteered at a local Assisted Living Facility as a Senior Companion through Interfaith Works. She volunteers 35 hours a week there

as a friendly visitor. She talks with the residents, plays games and often is the only visitor many of these seniors have. Ruby brings joy and happiness to all she comes in contact with on a daily basis. She also volunteers at her church; helping others and serving the community.

- **Flanders Memorial Caregiver of the Year**

Amanda Tarolli – When Amanda’s 61 year old mother was told she had end-stage lung cancer, Amanda immediately said, “You are moving in with me!” As a single parent with three children under 10, Amanda devoted herself to caring for her mother and even sold equipment from her beautician business to take her mother and children for a memorable trip to Florida. The Hospice nurses who came to the home said, they were so touched by the love Amanda showed as a caregiver. Her mother has passed and Amanda is now looking into a nursing career. She wants to continue to care for others.

County Executive McMahon said, “The mission of the Office for Aging is to improve and enrich the quality of life of all seniors and caregivers in Onondaga County by providing programs and services they need to live independently.” McMahon continued, “Our seniors are vital members of our community, helping others with their knowledge and their time. Thank you to the entire team at Adult and Long Term Care team for their hard work putting this event together.”

The County Executive also presented a proclamation declaring the month of May in Onondaga County as “Older Americans Month”.

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