

MICHAEL SNYDER (56)

Michael E. Snyder is the epitome of the word volunteer. He has dedicated his life to serving others and should be recognized for his years of volunteer service throughout the City of Oregon and the surrounding community. Along with the details below you will find a letter of nomination from Mary Wolff from the East Toledo Senior Center. She had submitted his name to Medical Mutual for a Volunteer of the year award. Her nomination goes into detail describing the volunteer service Mike has performed throughout the years in our community. I am sure there are many more stories like this but when I was younger, I recall a time that he went to the bank to deposit his paycheck. The former Ohio Citizens Bank had a tricky drive thru to maneuver. He no sooner left and was back again. It turns out there was a stranded motorist with 1 tire over the high curb in the drive thru and the rest on the other side. He ran home to get his heavy--duty jack and other supplies needed to help this lady out of her predicament. That's just the kind of guy my dad is – **ALL.OF.THE.TIME**. Not just occasionally, he is always and forever willing to help someone else.

Another example to share . . . we know of 2 different neighbors that he has helped with installing chair lifts for wheelchairs. This allowed handicapped accessibility for them to be able to stay in their home and not have to go into a facility. These actions are out of the kindness of his heart. He is not being paid to do them and would certainly not accept payment. He sees a need in the community and takes it upon himself to fix it.

Mike Snyder retired after 43 years on the Oregon Fire Department and during those years of service also became District #2 Fire Chief. Upon his retirement the City of Oregon Proclaimed October 1, 2002 as “**Mike Snyder Day**”.

Mike has volunteered for over 25 years putting flags on the graves of deceased Oregon Fire Fighters. This involves driving to cemeteries all over the City of Oregon and surrounding areas to place the flags before Memorial Day then also remove the flags after Memorial Day.

Mike was instrumental in getting the Oregon Fire Fighter Museum up and running. He has volunteered his time for over 3 years. He is a Trustee and the current Treasurer for the Oregon Fire Fighters Museum. His name is listed in the Metro Press as the contact person to reach for private tours, which he is happy to do.

Received the Blue Coat of the Year Award for 2014 – 2015 through Knights of Columbus. This award is given to a Knight that is involved in Law Enforcement or Fire Service for their dedication and service to the community. The Snyder family received the **Family of the year award** for Knights of Columbus in 2021.

Mike has been volunteering as a Knights of Columbus member for a number of years. His ranking is a **4th Degree Sir Knight**. He walks twice a year for the March for Life Walk for the Knights of Columbus in remembrance of all unborn children. This is a Pro-life walk. March for Life has been a vital part of Knights' efforts to defend life from conception to natural death. Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Fraternal Organization dedicated to promoting and conducting educational, charitable, religious and social welfare works. Mike has also volunteered to "stand guard" during funeral services Knight members that have passed.

He volunteers at Sacred Heart Church (Epiphany of the Lord) to take communion every week to shut ins. He volunteers so much that the current Priests call him "**Mr. Sacred Heart**". He is a Sacristan, Eucharistic Minister, Server when needed.

He attends Mass at Historic St. Patrick's Every year to honor lives of the firemen lost in the attacks of 9/11.

He reached the milestone of total Blood donations of **20 GALLONS** of blood on Sept. 30, 2016.

He sings weekly in the Sacred Heart Church Choir and below Singing in the Choir at Handel's Messiah performance with People from all over the city coming together to present this amazing performance for the Christmas Season in December 2021.

Mike also works tirelessly at the German American Festival every year. A few days before it begins, he can be found shucking corn and then spends the entire day the festival after cleaning the grounds.

Mike golfs on a retiree league for General Motors and has volunteered his time to be the score keeper. He keeps the statistics on his computer and reports back every week the standings for the league.

Along with his volunteering outside of the home he assisted as a caregiver for his Mother-in-Law whom he moved into the family home and helped with her care

until her passing. Years later he assisted as a caregiver for his own mother until her passing at 104 years old.

Nomination submission to Medical Mutual Volunteer of the Year for 2015 by Mary Wolff Director of the East Toledo Senior Center

Mike Snyder is the definition of “Volunteer”. He has volunteered for one thing or another for over 50 years. Mike was a volunteer firefighter and at one-point Fire Chief for the City of Oregon for 43 years total service.

In addition, he is very active in his church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He was in the Sacristan Choir, on the Liturgy Committee and Maintenance Committee, served as Eucharistic Minister and Altar Server for funerals. In 2003, he volunteered for 3 months, 5 days a week with a contractor to refurbish Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Mike was also a member of Bishop Daniel Thomas' Honor Guard.

Mike is very involved with the Knights of Columbus. He arranges to have members serve a free breakfast at the East Toledo Senior Center for Veterans on Veteran's Day for the past several years. He also arranges for the Knights of Columbus members to help with several events at the Sacred Heart Home for Aged. Mike was instrumental in getting winter coats donated for needy children at the East Toledo Family Center at Christmas time. With the Knights of Columbus, Mike walks twice a year for Right to Life. He also worked with KOC members in getting two Ultrasound Machines for unborn babies at two area clinics.

Because Mike is always thinking of others, and with the things he would see as a volunteer firefighter, he knows how important a good blood supply is to the community. To date, he has donated 20 gallons of blood and was also an Aphaeresis donor.

He has served on several committees at the East Toledo Senior Center. He currently serves as President of the Participant's Council. This counsel is a liaison between the senior citizens and the Advisory Board and staff. He is a true advocate for seniors and children. If the center needs any help with repairs, Mike is there, sometimes without even being asked. He is so generous with his time, having worked on electrical, plumbing and internet issues the senior center has had. Mike was also very instrumental in helping the director create and publish a new website. He gently “pushed” her to feel confident enough to do this. He was her biggest cheerleader when the website was finally complete and published.

When Mike and his wife Judy saw the need we had for an ice machine, they found one and purchased it for the center. They have gone on weeklong bus trips with the center. Even though he is on a vacation, he always helps other seniors with walkers and wheelchairs that may not get around as easily as him. After the storm on Super Bowl Sunday, 2015, Mike spent 4 hours shoveling and using his snow blower to help his neighbors.

Mike, who retired from General Motors after 32 years, has been married to Judy for 62 years. They have 3 sons, 2 daughters, 14 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. We cannot possibly

think of anyone more deserving of this award. He is such a kind and generous man who is willing to help whenever/wherever he may be needed.