

'This guy is really special'

Chemung honors the top senior volunteer in the state.

By RAY FINGER

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You might not have realized it, but Wednesday was Warren Ingham Day in Chemung County to honor the New York State Senior Volunteer of the Year for 2006.

Proclaimed by Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli, the special day honored Ingham, 82, of Erin, a former supervisor of the town of Erin who has long been involved in numerous volunteer activities. There were 59 volunteers nominated from across the state for the New York State Office for the Aging award.

"These awards are available to me because of Chemung County," Ingham said during a celebration honoring him at the Lindenwald Haus Bed and Breakfast in Elmira. "And if I've helped somebody along the way, then everything I've done has been worthwhile."

Ingham, the Chemung County Senior Volunteer of the Year in 2005, does not look for recognition but just wants to do a good job for his community and always puts others before himself, Santulli said in making the proclamation.

"This guy really is special," said Santulli, who recalled Ingham as Erin town supervisor from 1990 to 1996.

"He was just a super guy, easy to work with, very involved, just very nice," Santulli said. "He was one of those guys that if you had a problem, you just called him and he took care of it. It's just his nature."

The best word to describe Ingham is "gentleman," he said.

Ingham has been a member of the Chemung County Office for the Aging's Advisory Committee for many years and moves within the fabric of the community in a non-assuming way, said Sam David, that agency's director.

"He has a certain grace in his humility and a dignity in his quietness," David said. "That, I think, is partially the definition of a gentleman."

Ingham's volunteer activities have included the Community Visiting Program of the Bath VA Medical Center, the United Way, the Community Resolution Dispute Center, RSVP, Chemung County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Information Center, Home Helper Program, Southern Tier Association for the Visually Impaired, Cerebral Palsy Association, the Compeer Miniature Golf Program, the Intergenerational Panel at Horseheads High School and the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center.



RAY FINGER/Star-Gazette
Warren Ingham of Erin, left, holds up the proclamation that declares Wednesday as Warren Ingham Day in Chemung County as County Executive Tom Santulli looks on Wednesday at Lindenwald Haus Bed and Breakfast in Elmira.