

The Spirit of Frostburg Award

To celebrate our community's Bicentennial in 2012, the City of Frostburg created the 2012 Fund. The 2012 Fund successfully financed a very enjoyable Bicentennial Celebration.

The remainder of the 2012 Fund was invested by the Foundation for Frostburg in what is known as The Frostburg Day Endowment. In addition, the Bicentennial Committee designated the second Saturday in September to be known as "Frostburg Day." On that day, or at a Fall meeting of the Mayor and Council, a portion of the interest generated from this endowment is presented to individuals or groups that have upheld the Foundation's mission of enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Frostburg and the surrounding communities. This fund will continue to grow and serve as a start-up fund for Frostburg's 250th Birthday Celebration in the year 2062.

In addition to a cash stipend, a unique piece of artwork is presented to the recipients of the Spirit of Frostburg Award. The background incorporates the poster that was designed for the 2012 Celebration. Our thanks go out again to Susan Dodge of FSU who designed the original Bicentennial poster, and continues to customize the award for us each year. On the poster is the Bicentennial Poem, commissioned by the Frostburg 2012 committee, composed by local poet Nina Forsythe, who currently serves our city as a commissioner.

Award winners are selected by the Mayor and Council. Previous winners of this award include:

2013: Winnie Davis, Frostburg Area Ambulance Service, Chuck Dicken, WFWM, and Jack Dishong, Frostburg Lamppost Committee.

2014: The House and Garden Club of Frostburg, and The American Legion Farrady Post 24.

2015: Elizabeth Eshleman, The Frostburg Museum, and Dr. William Bingman & Dr. Barbara Ornstein, FSU Children's Literature Centre.

2016: Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Director of Civic Engagement, FSU

2017: The Classy Chassis Car Club and The Frostburg Elks Lodge 470

2018: Retired Hometown Heros Sergeant George D. Kroll, Lieutenant Kevin G. Grove, Chief Royce C. Douty, for 120 years of combined service on the Frostburg Police Department.

2019: Frostburg Area Interfaith Food Pantry: The stipend treated the directors and designated volunteers to a dinner.

2020: Mr. Bob Stevenson, Retired Principal of Beall Elementary School

2021: Mr. John R. Kirby, Jr.: Frostburg City Administrator, retired, who served the City from September 14, 2004 to June 30, 2019.

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2022: Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas, Professor, Frostburg State University Dept. of Sociology, Coordinator, FSU Appalachian Festival.

2023: Local elementary school students Carson Negley, age 7, leukemia patient, and Harper Struntz, age 9, priority patient for a heart transplant.

2024: The Foundation for Frostburg Coal Miner Memorial Statue Fund. The coal miner memorial committee established their Mission in 2012: To recollect the history of coal in the George's Creek Valley, to recognize its economic and cultural impact upon our region, and to recall the sacrifices made by those who mined it. The project was funded by contributions to the Foundation for Frostburg, the City of Frostburg, Allegany County, The State of MD Capital Grant and Open Space Programs, and the Rocky Gap Foundation. 12 years later, in August of 2024, the committee held an "Evening Meander" to dedicate the Memorial. Located along the pathway leading from the Frostburg Depot to the Frostburg Trailhead of the Great Allegheny Passage, the space is truly a peaceful, unique resource. Along with our congratulations on receiving the 2024 Spirit of Frostburg Award goes our thanks to the committee for their perseverance and dedication.