



A GREAT MAN HAS GONE: Lewiston mourns Bruce Sutherland

Community leader leaves legacy of service



Bruce Sutherland in his recent years of service to the Lewiston community.

Bruce Sutherland was a treasure and a friend and a pillar of the Lewiston community.

Shortly after learning of his unexpected passing last week Monday, friends were quick to comment on social media. Some of the many statements included: "My heart is heavy. Godspeed, Bruce."

"It's hard to imagine this community without him."

"He was such a wonderful person."

"Such a huge loss to the community."

"He was a treasure. So very sad thinking of life without him."

"A great man and friend."

"He was loved by everyone who knew him."

"Amazing human. ... If we could all be a little more like Bruce."

"Lewiston lost a great man and a very kind person."

"Like the whole community I am shocked and saddened by the passing of my friend. He always brought a huge smile to my face whenever we saw each other."

"He was one of a kind, had great stories, and always had the best interests of Lewiston in his heart no matter what. Very sad."

"A wonderful person."

"Nobody I know went about their life, personal, political – no doubt in military and airline – with more grace, humility, and good-will than you. Right now,

Lewiston has a hole in its heart." "What a champion for Lewiston. And a warm, contemplative man."

"Orange Cat will never be the same."

"He will be missed."

Clearly, we are all better off for having known Bruce.

Sutherland, one of Lewiston's most esteemed and respected leaders, passed away unexpectedly of complications from a recent surgery. He was 75.

A Lewiston native, Sutherland was born on Nov. 8, 1946, the son of Ronald R. Sutherland and Alice Coulter Sutherland. He attended Lewiston-Porter schools, excelled at sports, and enjoyed playing wide receiver for the football team and pitching for the baseball team. He also lettered in basketball.

Sutherland married his high school sweetheart, Jacqueline (Jackie) Foss, on Aug. 24, 1968, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston.

He attended and graduated from both Niagara County Community College and SUNY Geneseo. Sutherland earned a degree in biology and also obtained a master's degree in management from the University of Southern California. After college, he joined the Air Force and enrolled in officer training school, ultimately becoming a pilot.

During his 26-year Air Force

career, Sutherland and his family were assigned to far-flung locations across the U.S. and the world, including the Philippines and Panama. He flew aircraft including the T-37, C-130, the B-1 bomber and the B-52 Stratofortress. His military service culminated in his promotion to colonel and his appointment as wing commander at Dyess, a major Air Force base in Abilene, Texas, which is part of the Global Strike Command.

After retiring from the Air Force, Sutherland became a captain for a major airline.

He and Jackie returned to Lewiston in 2002. Sutherland became active with several civic organizations, including the Lewiston Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487. He was the highest-ranking veteran in Lewiston history, and a member of the committee that constructed the new "Circle of Honor" veterans memorial at Academy Park.

Sutherland was currently serving as president of the Lewiston Public Library board of trustees. He was a former president of the Historical Association of Lewiston and served on the Fort Niagara board of directors. He was first appointed and, in 2011, elected as a Village of Lewiston trustee, where he served for several years. Sutherland also was appointed deputy mayor.

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Wheatfield youth team with Summit Park Pharmacy to brighten holidays



The Town of Wheatfield Youth Center kids, under the direction of Heather Zeller, made gift bags for local shut-ins. All proceeds were donated by Debbie Reed from Summit Park Pharmacy. After the gift bags were assembled, they were delivered to Michele Male at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church to be distributed.

The bags contained a pair of warm socks, chocolates, battery-operated candles, and a special 12-inch Christmas tree the youth center kids decorated, so each person could have something that sat right next to their tables.

The youth center kids were asked, if they were a shut-in inside their house and spent most of the day sitting on a recliner chair, what might make someone smile. All the items Reed bought were from the ideas the kids came up with.

Zeller said the kids really enjoyed putting these together. It was a nice way for them to give back to the community.

Michele Male from Holy Ghost was appreciative of the gifts and the thought that went into them.

Reed said, "I enjoy working for a company (Summit Park Pharmacy) that allows me to bring a few organizations together to help out our community." (Submitted photos)



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