

Mitch Goldblatt To Be Honored March 30

The Orange Democratic Town Committee has announced that Mitch Goldblatt will be the 2023 O'Sullivan Award honoree. Mitch is probably the most famous of town residents as he has served as an elected official in the Town of Orange for well over 40 years. His love for serving his community has spanned the elected positions of Constable, Town Plan and Zoning Commission, Board of Selectman and First Selectman.

Now in his 15th term as a member of the Board of Selectmen, Mitch is currently the chair of the Orange Recycling Committee and a member of the Pension Board. A volunteer at many events, Mitch is always present at the Orange Country Fair, the Firemen's Carnival, Shredding Day, and the Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner, to name a few.

Mitch has been involved in town affairs beginning with the Sesquicentennial Committee in 1972, while he was still in high school. His desire for celebrations about our town have continued for the past half century as he was also significantly involved in the Orange Jubilee in 1997 and served on the 2022 Bicentennial Committee.

First elected as a Town Constable in 1979 Mitch went on to win election to the first of three four-year terms as a member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in 1981. He also served concurrently for a decade on the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission, the vast majority of years as the chair. He continued to serve those commissions, when he ran an unsuccessful campaign for State Senate in 1986.

In 1993, he was elected to his first term as a member of the Board of Selectmen. As a Selectman, he was appointed as the Chair of the Post Road Fire House Building Committee, as well as the Case Memorial Library Building Committee. He was an original member of the Orange Government Access Television Committee and served as its Chair for several years.

Then in 1999 he was elected to his first of three terms as Orange's First Selectman. During his six years as First Selectman, the Town purchased the Bryan House and the Housatonic Overlook. Mitch was an early advocate of the extension of Edison Road, the development of an Orange Train Station, and began the path for a surge of economic development, including working to bring Target and Kohl's to town, while initiating discussions with United Illuminating. His statewide efforts to ban smoking in restaurants earned him an award from the American Cancer Society. He helped establish the Post Road Study Committee, the Open Space Committee, and the War Remembrance Committee, among many other achievements, including working hard to advocate for the new Amity High School and what was to become the Brady Auditorium.

From 2005 through the present day, Mitch has continuously been re-elected as a Selectman, now serving in his 30th year on the Board. He is currently an associate member of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and a standing member of the Bond Oversight Committee.

He has served for decades on the Orange Democratic Town Committee, and is a lifetime member of the Orange Historical Society and the Orange Land Trust. A long-time supporter of Orange Rotary events, Mitch was recognized last year as the most recent recipient of the Paul H. Harris Fellowship.

He currently works for the Town of Guilford as the Director of Human Resources and is an adjunct professor of Public Administration at the University of New Haven.

A proud graduate of the Amity High School Class of 1975, Mitch earned a BA in Political Science from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania and an MBA in Management from The University of New Haven. Mitch resides on Drummond Road with his wife Abby, and has two adult children, Carl and Shayna.

This award is given in honor of the O'Sullivan family's legacy of public service. The ODTC established this award to be given annually in recognition of an Orange resident for outstanding community service through their involvement in local, state or national government. This year's ceremony will be held March 30 at Grassy Hill Country Club.

If you are interested in learning more about attending or purchasing a tribute ad, please visit our website, orangectdems.org or email ODTC Chair Polly Demirjian at Polly.Orange2022@gmail.com.