Merrimack searching for town's oldest citizen

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Boston Post Cane:

To qualify as Merrimack's oldest citizen, applicants must be local residents and have lived in town for at least 25 years.

By KIMBERLY HOUGHTON

Union Leader Correspondent

MERRIMACK — One year after the passing of beloved local police officer Roy Ingerson — the holder of Merrimack's Boston Post Cane — the search is now on to find the oldest resident in town to take on the tradition.

Ingerson was well known in the community after working four decades with the Merrimack Police Department, and later serving as a crossing guard at Thornton's Ferry School.

Ingerson, 101, died on June 15, 2015, and Merrimack's Boston Post Cane has been without an owner ever since.

Ingerson received the cane in 2014, an honor bestowed upon the town's oldest living resident; he was 99-years-old at the time.

"He was a really nice man. He used to high-five all of the students," said Mary Karam, an administrative assistant at Thornton's Ferry School. "He was unbelievable. Everybody knew him."

Previous Boston Post Cane holders include Madeline Bennett and Thomas Gouvalaris.

Bennett served more than 30 years as a local teacher and previously worked at the Merrimack Public Library for 24 years; there is even a street in town named after Bennett, which leads to the town's middle school.

Gouvalaris, who was born in Greece and later served in the Pacific Theater in World War II, eventually found his career at Waumbec Mills and Alexander's Supermarket.

The search is now on for Merrimack's oldest resident to become the new Boston Post Cane holder.

"The Boston Post Cane tradition started in 1909 when the Boston Post newspaper delivered the gold-headed ebony canes to 700 towns in New England, and requested the canes be presented to the oldest citizen in town and passed on to the next oldest when he or she dies," states a release.

To qualify as Merrimack's oldest citizen, applicants must be local residents and have lived in town for at least 25 years.

Anyone who may know a qualified candidate is asked to contact the town manager's office at: Town of Merrimack, ATTN: Boston Post Cane, 6 Baboosic Lake Rd., Merrimack, N.H. 03054. Or, call 424-2331 or email kwardner@merrimacknh. gov.

Nominations will be accepted until July 22.

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Roy Ingerson held Merrimack's Boston Post Cane until his death one year ago. COURTESY

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