



Joseph "Joe" Feldman (1917-2009). At age 10 hitched a ride to Long Island from his native New York City to see Charles Lindberg on his solo flight across the Atlantic. At 16, Boy Scout Joe was an usher when the USS Constitution visited New York. In 1939 he enlisted in the US Army including fighting in Germany in 1941 and served 8 years also in the US Coast Guard. The switch somehow involved pursuing a girl and Joe married Seattleite Shirley in 1944. They had 4 children. Joe's passion was flying and he had a career with the FAA and also served in the Civil Air Patrol spanning 1935-1973. That included a Korean War stint controlling air traffic from Japan to Korea. He was always doing something but most of it was for others, a lot of volunteer work. In 1974 Joe became

the Western State Coordinator for the American Freedom Train. He has spent some 60 years actively with the American Legion and if there was a parade Joe was there and in charge and one of his monikers is "Flag Man.". He has a home full of recognitions including Veteran of the Year, Good Citizen of Washington, Evergreen Award, 1st Citizen of Seattle (2), Prime Minister of Seafair, Goodwill Ambassador, etc. Even recently, Joe, now blind, still volunteered at the VA Hospital with over 9000 hours in 20 years. Joseph Feldman was a leader in bringing together the civilian and military communities.

Joseph Feldman was the first recipient of the " Bob Curran Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Lake Washington Council of the Navy League and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on May 12, 2009 -

Bringing the Armed Services and Civilian Communities Together (Criteria: A veteran, Exemplary in bringing the armed services and the civilian communities together, Integrity, Life time achievement, Self less, and Voluntary)

There was a time when Bob and Joe were interchangeable in conversations as to local individuals bringing together the military and civilian communities. They were very different in some ways. Joe has dedicated his life as a man in uniform and to the community that he loves so much.

1. **A Veteran.** Joe served his country in two military services, the US Army and the US Coast Guard.

2. **Bringing together the Military and Civilian Communities.** Seafair Parade Marshals are in the thick of the action, and you could be there too! Joining the Seafair Parade Marshals allows you to learn what goes on behind the scenes of parades and have a lot of fun at the same time. From putting the units into their proper lineup order to hosting visiting parade participants, Seafair Parade Marshals are involved in giving back to their communities. Joe was "the Parade Marshal" he was at every Community Parade and was the Military advocate. He was honored as Chief Marshal in 1979.

Long time Adjutant of American Legion Post #1; if you called American Legion Post #1, you got Joe Feldman; and if there was a community event, there was Joe representing the American Legion bringing together civilians and the military.

Navy League; Joe was a plank owner of the Lake Washington Council and was previously with the Seattle Council. For a long time there was a Navy League Seafair committee charged with bringing together the civilian and military community during Seafair and Joe was a major player. There are numerous other examples but the above serve as a sampling.

3. **Integrity and Selflessness.** Joe was an example thereof. His behavior over a lifetime is exemplary. Ask his wife Shirley.

4. **Lifetime Achievement.** As you will note in the comments below, Joe not only has spent a lifetime serving others especially after retiring from the FAA, but also has been previously recognized among others with the Evergreen Award in 1992 (The Evergreen State Society presents these awards as tokens of appreciation for the dedication to public benefit work and to the people, causes and communities these and other nonprofit organizations have taken it upon themselves to serve.)

5. **Voluntary.** Today, Joe volunteers his time to many veterans that visit the VA Puget Sound. He provides directional and escort services to veterans and visitors throughout the large complex. Despite his declining eyesight, he is entrusted at various positions to get people to the right place on time. His personality and willingness to give of himself is very much appreciated by the many who ask for his assistance and guidance.

Are these actions by Joe reflective of his selflessness and trustworthiness; i.e. integrity?

This current volunteerism is a snapshot of a lifetime dedicated to fostering patriotism and to recognize that we have a duty to keep ourselves and our fellow citizens aware of the American Legion Motto: For God and Country.