



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Contact:

Carole Alfano, 271-7585

carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us

Sen. D'Allesandro shares \$2,500 Peterson Award with NH charities

Five non-profits each receive \$500 from senator's Citizen Leader Award

(Concord) On the same day flags flew at half-staff in his honor, five New Hampshire charities received prize money from the first-ever Walter Peterson Citizen Leader Award on Thursday. Sen. Lou D'Allesandro presented the \$500 checks to the non-profits during a news conference at the LOB as part of the \$2,500 he received after being named the Citizen Leader winner. The seven-term senator was given the award during commencement ceremonies at Franklin Pierce University on May 12th.

D'Allesandro began the event noting the passing of the former governor saying, "Walter Peterson was my mentor and dear friend for 35 years. He was also an outstanding public servant who gave so much of his time and talents to New Hampshire. I am truly humbled to receive the leadership award that bears his name. I'm delighted to distribute the charitable contribution portion of my award to these most deserving organizations."

The five non-profits sharing the prize money include: Hear in NH, New Horizons, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Webster House and the Friendly Kitchen. Jason Tremblay from Make-A-Wish said D'Allesandro's contribution would help his organization get one step closer to granting its 1000 wish to a child in New Hampshire while Charlie Sherman of New Horizons thanked the senator for supporting the shelter that is helping 250 families who are homeless for the first time. The Friendly Kitchen might have been the most grateful of all having just lost its facility to a fire. Board Member Hope Butterworth said, "We're still standing. We're still cooking. We didn't miss a beat thanks to so many people who have stepped up, but everything we used to cook our meals was destroyed. We're starting over so this check is greatly appreciated."

Franklin Pierce President James F. Birge was pleased to deliver the checks to the ceremony and also added his thoughts on Sen. D'Allesandro. "When I discussed with Walter and Dorothy who should be the first person to receive the Citizen Award, we all agreed Lou would be the perfect recipient. We are so proud to honor him as well as the charities of his choice," he said.

The Walter R. Peterson Citizen Leader Award is given annually by Franklin Pierce University to honor an individual for his or her extraordinary commitment to public service, selfless contributions to higher education, sense of humor and high moral character.

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