



# ROY STARKE

## 2023 Person of the Year Award

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I was born in 1946 in Huntington Hospital. My family moved to Fort Salonga in 1953 and I entered 1st grade in October of that year. The first-grade teacher was Mrs. Osgood, Ralph J. Osgood's wife. At that time, the original building was K-12 and there were only two buses. The new addition in 1955 became the elementary area. Completed High School in 1965, the last graduating class out of that building.

I am husband to Sandra Starke and father to Kevin Michael and Karen Michelle. Grandfather to Bradley, Tyler, Dylan and Madilynn.

Some of the important educators who were a great influence in my life were Assistant Principal Mr. Arthur Newille, Football coach Paul O'Brien, Mr. Anthony Scotto, Mr. Miles Borden, bus driver and Fire Department Chief John Baker, and Chief Steve Fling, along with many others.

Served in the United States Army serving in Anniston, Alabama and Heidelberg, Germany from 1971 to 1973. I spent 43 years in Local #25 IBEW Electrical Union working in power houses, major stores, malls, nursing homes, schools, traffic signals and theaters. I donated much time to various union committees, softball and golf outings. I am currently a substitute district school bus driver since 2012.

Some of the organizations I have donated time to are:

1. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church – Charter member since 1962
2. Smithtown Landing Men's Golf Association since 1997 – Board Member since 2004 – President 2015-2016.
3. St. Patrick's Day Parade – Committee member and Parade Coordinator since 2010
4. Supervisor Patrick Vecchio's first committee on recommendations concerning the Kings Park State Hospital in 1993.
5. Kings Park Chamber of Commerce's President Tony Tanzi's first committee on improvements to our town.
6. Member of the Kings Park Fire Department since 1975
  - a. Active interior fireman until 2019
  - b. Active exterior fireman/driver since 2019
  - c. Emergency Medical Technician for 25 years
  - d. Active ambulance driver/rider for 48 years
  - e. Kings Park Chamber of Commerce representative since 2010
  - f. Three times awarded Fireman of the Year
  - g. Smithtown Chief's Council member since 1987
  - h. Memorial Co-Chair since 1990
  - i. Chief of the Department 1994
  - j. President 2010-2014