

Joy Healy – Minerva Citizen of the Year 2022

So, what does it take to be a good citizen? This is actually pretty hard to answer easily, but let's start with values. A good citizen has qualities such as honesty, integrity, compassion, community-mindedness, respect (both given and received), responsibility, character, pride, volunteerism, etc. Minerva's Citizen of the Year for 2022 has all these qualities, and her name is Joy Healy.

Joy and her husband Ed have been very active in the Minerva community since 2007 when they bought their home on Trout Brook Road. When Joy received a call a few weeks back about being named Minerva Citizen of the Year, she said she ".... had never thought about it, and I was in total shock." Joy thoroughly enjoys living in the town: "Being part of a community has always been important to us."

Joy is originally from Texas, growing up on a farm in Tomball, outside of Houston. Her family moved to Colonie, NY in 1963, where she went to high school and met her husband, Ed. She received her teaching degree in 1968 and shortly thereafter taught English in the public school system. She taught for many years before moving to Minerva in 2007 and finally retiring from teaching in 2010. Between getting her teaching degree and moving to Minerva, Joy and Ed raised three children. She and Ed saw a part of the world few get to see, as they moved to Bulgaria in 1992 to become missionaries, bringing with them their 9-year-old daughter. After five years in Europe, they moved back to the United States.

Joy and Ed were very active in the Minerva Historical Society (MHS) between 2010 and 2021 and are also active in the Minerva Service Organization and Minerva Sleeping Giants. Back in 2014, the MHS saw that the town's bicentennial was coming up in 2017, and Joy believed there was a need to update the town's history (the previous update was in 1985). Joy coordinated the project with Ed, who did the layout of pictures and text. She said the project involved a core group of proofreaders, including Heidi Kelly, Kathy Halloran, and Mary Jane Gorges. She indicated that the book's publisher was patient and ".... had a tender heart for our project". The effort paid off, and the latest history was published in 2019.

Joy is still active in the Minerva Food Pantry and the town's Backpack Program. She gives a lot of credit to Fran Paradis for involving her in the food pantry. She is

very much looking forward to the 2022 Minerva Day Parade, where she will take her place at the front of the parade as Citizen of the Year. She recognizes that it's been tough over the past couple of years with Covid-19, but is pleased about folks reinvolving themselves. "The community is working together for the higher good – it makes Minerva a great place to live. We're really social beings; we're designed to be with other people – it makes community."