

From the Worcester Telegram, August 12th, 2007

Founder of town's PTA receives citizen award

By Patty Lawrence-Perry CORRESPONDENT

WALES— The first David W. Worth Citizenship Award was presented to Patricia M. “Pepper” Wheeler during Olde Home Day on Saturday night.

The idea of the award was the brainchild of Selectman Michael J. Valanzola, who convinced his colleagues in December that selectmen should establish an award program for those who give back to the community.

He suggested the award be named the David W. Worth Citizenship Award in honor of Mr. Worth's 40 years of service in numerous positions, including highway surveyor and fire chief. A nomination committee accepted letters recommending recipients.

Mr. Valanzola said “it was a no-brainer for the nominating committee and selectmen to accept the nomination” of Ms. Wheeler. “She has dedicated her life to helping others. Everything she's ever done in town was done without accepting any money. She founded and served as president of the PTA for over six years. She worked tirelessly to purchase new equipment for the (elementary school) playground and donated over 3,000 teddy bears to the victims of Hurricane Katrina,” he said.

Amid the Olde Home Day activities, Mr. Valanzola presented a teary-eyed Ms. Wheeler the award with “enthusiastic company spirit, individual self-esteem, appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, who exemplifies the characteristics necessary to live the life of a good citizen, demonstrates ethical leadership and stewardship and makes a positive difference in the town of **Wales** .”

She was nominated for the award in the spring by Jean F. Mongeon of 20 Royce Lane.



The first David W. Worth Citizenship Award was presented to Patricia M. “Pepper” Wheeler during Olde Home Day on Saturday, August 9th, 2008