



GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2017
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Barry Gerenstein Named GNFD Citizen of the Year



The 2016 GNFD Citizen of the Year, Barry Gerenstein, has been a long-time resident and familiar face to the Greater Naples Fire District, taking personal responsibility to make his community a safer place. Because of his personal commitment, hundreds of residents are better prepared to respond to the effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires that we all know are a way of life in Southwest Florida.

Mr. Gerenstein has single handedly trained, managed and maintained the largest single entity CERT in Collier County. His unique ability to motivate team members, provide equipment and continuous training with little to no budget is nothing short of amazing. Largely due to his efforts alone his community was awarded the prestigious "Communities of Excellence" award in multiple categories. Three-thousand communities entered the competition. Among several awards bestowed upon the community, VeronaWalk was awarded the "Safety and Security Initiatives" award and the "Community of the Year" award. As the community's CERT leader he was invited to Orlando to accept the community's numerous awards.

In addition to monthly CERT team meetings and drills, Mr. Gerenstein hosts an annual hurricane preparedness seminar, inviting local meteorologists and public safety responders to educate the community on the dangers of hurricanes and preventative measures to take in order to be prepared before an emergency is imminent.

Mr. Gerenstein's continuous support of the fire district and deep desire to provide solutions, emphasize personal responsibility and preparedness has made his community stronger and safer, and the District's job easier. Mr. Gerenstein was recognized at the District's Second Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony held on February 24, 2017.

*If you would like more information regarding this topic, or to schedule an interview,
please contact the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Headquarters.*