

Governor's Humanitarian Award

Award criteria: The recipient of this award must be an outstanding individual who acts independently of associations and organizations. The recipient has given his time and service freely to those in need without question and often without recognition. This award honors the quiet soldiers who promote the welfare of humanity and elimination of pain and suffering through their own selfless service. The recipient represents a personal activism that has led him to render unheralded long-term service to the community and is a role model for others to emulate.



David W. Price
Twinsburg

David W. Price works hard to help others in need and to better the world around him, according to his nominator.

Price grew up in a poor, diverse neighborhood in Bridgeville, Pa., which set the basis for his acceptance of cultural diversity and advocacy, according to his nominator. "He has carried that motivation of acceptance of cultural diversity and advocacy and his drive to help others throughout his life. He could have become a bitter man; instead he continued to fight, through nonviolent methods, such as working hard to win ... academic and athletic scholarships which he utilized at Slippery Rock University," his nominator said. At Slippery Rock he was a member of the conference championship football team and helped create strong academic and scholastic support for minority college students by establishing a cooperative network among 25 Greek organizations. Price has continued his involvement with Slippery Rock by endowing a scholarship and by providing inspiration and support to the football team.

"Mr. Price has held a few positions since his college days but with each one he (has) found a way to help people beyond his professional responsibilities," his nominator said. For example, as a broker he was compelled to evaluate ethical terminology to reduce misrepresentation. Since starting his own construction company more than 15 years ago, Price has made his mentor/protégé and internship programs part of his business model. "He also mentors other small businesses so they do not have to learn everything the hard way as he did. ... He teaches and trains everywhere he goes," his nominator said. In addition, "Several of the people he has trained at his company have gone on to become independent business owners themselves."

Price also donates his time to numerous charities, including the PAWS Humane Society of Greater Akron, Wigs for Kids, Eddie Johnson Memorial Foundation, SIDS Network of Ohio, March of Dimes, Wilson-McCormick Scholarship program and the NFL Alumni Association. He also helped create youth and high school soccer programs in the Lima area. He has sat on various boards, including the Mental Health/MRDD Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties and the Greater Cleveland Safety Council.

Price also gives of his time freely to strangers. He buys dinner for veterans he comes across. He once bought cookies for all of the children in a restaurant. Another time he gave a hitchhiker two meals, some money and words of wisdom along with lending him his phone to call for a ride.

"It doesn't seem to matter where we've gone or what town we are in, he lives his life through the joy of giving back He sets an example for all of us by showing respect to all ... (and) giving what ends up being sometimes the coat off his back, sharing his experiences and the most precious commodity of all – his time," Price's nominator said.