

Press Release

August 29, 2010

Germantown OKTOBERFEST officials are announcing the 12 member committee's unanimous selection of Hugh McLean, a life-long resident and volunteer of Germantown, as PARADE GRAND MARSHALL for their "kick-off" parade on Friday evening, October 8, 2010.

OKTOBERFEST Coordinator George Sharpe praised the committee's choice by declaring, "I can't think of a better selection than Hugh. He's such a deserving person of this great community honor. The unassuming Hugh McLean has served the people as an 'unsung hero' for many years. For decades the man has remained in the background, never seeking publicity. Once again, but this time publicly, he will make his neighbors proud. Congratulations to Hugh McLean, who after significant urging at last accepted this frontline privilege as Parade Grand Marshall. Thanks Hugh for your willingness to once again serve your community."

Town Supervisor Roy Brown also commented;

"The Oktoberfest Committee selected someone from the Germantown community who is not only a descendent of the original Palatines, but also someone whose family is well known and respected in Columbia County", stated Roy Brown, Town Supervisor when asked his thoughts about the committee's choice.

"The nomination alone is a testament of Hugh's commitment and support of his community, and Germantown should be proud to have Hugh McLean as the 300th Anniversary Celebration Parade Grand Marshall."

Hugh McLean's statements:

With the ability to trace roots back to four of the original Palatine families, Lasher, Coons, Snyder and Denegar, who settled the area that would become known as Germantown, I have always felt a true sense of place as a member of the Germantown community. The town is home and has been home to countless numbers of my ancestors.

My family has had a long tradition of service to the town, the members of the community and to the nation. Members of my family were part of the Rent Wars with the powerful Livingston Family that helped establish this town as a free community, responsible to itself not a powerful landlord. My ancestors have fought in all the major wars from the Revolution and the Civil War to World Wars I and II. I have always considered it an honor and a privilege to serve my community, my home and friends through my profession and through membership in various community organizations. I am a graduate of Germantown Central School and Columbia Greene Community College. I have been a member of the United States Postal Service in Germantown for almost 30 years. I served as an EMT with Southern Columbia Rescue Squad for over 25 years and I am particularly proud of my membership in Germantown Hose Company # 1. I have served 25 years as a member of the fire company and more recently in addition to the fire company as an elected member of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Germantown Fire District. I have been a fire commissioner for 17 years and as Chairman of the Board for the last 10 years, and have had the great honor of seeing our fire station expand into the model station it is today, serving the community as a location for gatherings both official and family related; most importantly serving the volunteer firemen and women as well as the fire auxiliary who turn out to support and protect the community at a moment's notice. The Board of Fire Commissioners have been able to provide them with up to date quarters, well-managed and maintained equipment and the proper protective gear for the emergencies they face protecting the community we all call home.

I believe the work ethic I follow for the Board of Commissioners for the Germantown Fire District exemplifies my ethic and feelings toward the entire town, a life program, if you will.

The board members and I work to provide for the safety of the volunteers whose time and very lives are put on the line for the community. We work to provide safe haven for these volunteers as well as those in need during any emergency response we are part of. We follow the same curriculum and requirements set forth by the State of New York for PAID NYS fire fighters. Our volunteers under the direction of the Chief, Assistant Chiefs and other Line Officers, are a professional group charged with the protection of our community.

We are careful with taxpayer monies provided to the district. We understand the importance of treating this money as if it were our own, because in a sense, it is, since it comes from all of our pockets as taxpayers. We work to see the monies are well spent on training, substantial equipment that will serve the company and community well for many years, and supplies that will assist the company in providing the community with the best possible service. Budgeting is a careful process, knowing we need to balance service with the ability to maintain the quality of life we have all enjoyed as part of the greater Germantown community.

We look at the town as home and the members of the community as family, we treat all of our actions as if we were dealing with our OWN because ultimately we are. All of the above well illustrates, not only my work with the Board of Commissioners, but my life as a member of the Germantown community, a network of family and friends for me and for generations who preceded me.

I am incredibly honored to have been chosen by my peers to represent our community as Grand Parade Marshall for the 300th Oktoberfest Anniversary Parade. I want to thank all who have helped me reach this point as an ambassador for the town I call home. I especially want to thank my family, my grandparents who set the tone of tradition and service, my father whose

memory has served as an example, my mother, Frances Lasher McLean whose career choice as a nurse constantly provided a backdrop of caring and discretion and finally my sister who has a long career of public service in New York State's Office of Parks and Recreation, now Director at Olana State Historic Site. Linda has long worked with and for the public interest.

I am not one who seeks the limelight, I am much more comfortable working behind the scenes, making things happen and shining the spotlight on all of the others who have contributed to the cause. I am a believer in team-work and working together. However, in this instance, I will make an exception because this recognition will give me the opportunity to praise the community I call home. As Grand Parade Marshall I now can invite everyone to come to Germantown, to celebrate with us, and get to know the town and the people who are so important to me, those I work with and serve on a daily basis.