

**In Honor of Galen E. Mudgett, Jr.**  
**July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943 - February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



Galen Mudgett, Jr's legacy of municipal service first began almost sixty years ago.

As young man in his twenties, Galen was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Lister's Office in 1966, though his tenure was cut short when he decided to enlist in the Air Force in 1968.

After thirty years away from home, over twenty-five of which were spent in service to his country, Galen finally returned to Sharon.

Clearly not one to sit around, Galen was elected as a Lister in 1998. And although he filled other vital roles in the town over the years such as Town and School Moderator and E911 coordinator, Galen was a Lister at heart. In fact, he was reelected for a total of nine consecutive three-year terms.

The responsibility of a lister is to determine the fair market value of a property. Galen took this responsibility to heart, and he held himself to the highest standards.

Each spring, just as soon as the snow melted, Galen would head out to conduct his annual property viewings. Galen was a rarity in that he would walk the entire town, visually inspecting properties, methodically checking each parcel one by one.

Why?

Galen wanted to make sure Sharon's Grand List was as precise as possible because he knew that the level of accuracy in his work would have a direct effect on each one of his community members. He wanted the data to be correct, and he wanted the outcomes to be equitable and just. Galen's desire for the even-handed application of the laws drove his dedication to his work.

It is no surprise that Galen was awarded the Lister of the Year Award in 2006, "...in recognition of his fairness, integrity and dedication to local government and townspeople and his efforts to improve the practice of listing in Vermont." Exactly right.

At the office, Galen was friendly, but private and delightfully formal. He would stand to receive you when you stopped by. He had a knack for sniffing out free food, especially if it was a little something sweet. Galen called himself a "silly little twerp" once. That was the worst thing I ever heard him say about anyone.

Galen would make his daily rounds, belting out a hearty "good morning," delivered with an enthusiasm that rocked him up onto his tiptoes. He would share his thoughts on the business of the day or the headlines or another little tidbit before diving back into his work.

We would often "Google Galen" because asking Galen was the most reliable way to get the answers we needed. And he liked to help. He would stand tall with his hands tucked behind him and listen, then he would close his eyes, tip his head back, and sort through his vast knowledge bank. And you just had to wait a little. It was worth the wait.

Galen was a pillar of his community, but he did not brag about it. He was a quiet volunteer and so many held him in high regard. Galen had a reputation for being thoughtful, kind, and generous. And stubborn at times, it is true, but always ethical. We also have it on good authority that he made a mean lemon meringue pie.

Thank you, Galen, for being yourself. We will preserve your legacy of honesty, transparency, and integrity, and we will remember to "maintain a rigid state of fluid flexibility." But most of all, we will miss you.