

2017 Volunteer of the Year

Mike Dean

Mike Dean is a Vietnam Veteran and a pillar of our community. He is incredibly active in community organizations such as Lower Lake Action Community Group, Lake County Fire Protection District, Clearlake Rotary and Clearlake Car Club to name a few.

He has served as President of Lower Lake Community Action Group and is deeply invested in every aspect of outreach involved including youth athletic activities, local business development and encouragement.

Mike is the first to step up and assist in any project that is supporting any community within Lake County. He has been instrumental in coordinating and planning the annual Lower Lake Daze events Memorial weekend every year. For the past three years, he has coordinating the LLHS homecoming parade – creating a tradition we all look forward to. Mike has also assisted the Lakeshore Lions with their Annual 4th of July parade and festivities.

In his free time, he serves as a member of the Lake County Fire Protection Board of Directors and takes a proactive role in the committees he serves. But his commitment really shines when our communities are under siege like the recent fires. As the Rocky Fire quickly consumed mass areas of the Lower Lake area, he and his crew were instrumental in providing continual situational status of the fire including potential spot fires that may have crossed the lines. When he was done, he delivered supplies and equipment to responders as well as checking on evacuees' property, feeding their animals and providing them supplies. As the fire stabilized Mike continued to assist community members whether it was to deliver items to them or offer a simple smile, hand shake and words of support and sympathy for their loss. Mike continues this community service as we entered the devastating Valley Fire. In the following months, Mike was instrumental in securing various donations for food, water, clothing, household supplies, etc. As we rolled into 2016, Mike was once again an energizer bunny providing assistance during multiple smaller fires. Mike remained committed throughout each of these events and utilized his vehicles to conduct a great deal of these activities at his own expense.

Mike has been a godsend to this community and to literally hundreds of fire survivors over the past two years of firestorms to impact Lake County. Mike is truly a "Star of Lake County."