

## **That's How It's "Dun" – Jeff and Jen Miller Recognized for their Service to Dunlap**

Jeff and Jen Miller are this quarter's recipients of DCDC's "That's How It's Dun" Award. This award is part of a community service recognition program created to honor those who go above and beyond in their volunteer service contributions to the Dunlap community.

Jeff is a Dunlap native. In a 1983 edition of the Dunlap Reporter, a photo shows Jeff pushing a lawn mower with the article headline announcing, "Jeff Miller Is Named Worker of the Week."

"Jeff has known the importance of a strong work ethic since a young age," shared DCDC Executive Director, Jill Schaben, "and this ethic has stuck with him his entire life."

Jen, meanwhile, grew up a world traveler, moving a total of 38 times. Jen served in the Army, following in her father's footsteps. It was in the Army where Jeff and Jen's paths crossed, but it wasn't until years later, in 2017, that the Millers made the decision to move back to Dunlap.

"How fortunate Dunlap is, that the Millers decided to retire here," Schaben added regarding the community's ability to capitalize on the Miller's philanthropic efforts. "Although is it really retirement if you never slow down? Jeff and Jen are Dunlap community service 'power houses!'"

Jeff served on the Dunlap Fire Department from 1988-1992 before going into the military. He then re-joined the local fire crew in 2017 and has been serving since, for a combined 11 years and counting.

Jen is the current Commander of the Dunlap American Legion. She has held this position since 2022 and is the first ever female Commander in Dunlap! Jeff has had multiple roles within the American Legion. He has served as Commander, Vice Commander, and Adjutant.

During their time serving on the Dunlap American Legion, they have implemented and managed numerous fantastic community-related initiatives including, but not limited to, organizing Dunlap's Memorial Day program, lining up the Legion's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade float, helping to coordinate a Veteran's Day program at the Boyer Valley School, and helping to organize funeral/burial services for veterans.

The Legion facilitates the Avenue of Flags program in Dunlap, of which Jeff is the Chief Administrative Officer. Flags are placed along roadways ahead of prominent patriotic

holidays and 100% of the money raised through this effort goes directly back into the community. The Legion also hosts the annual Santa Visit at the Dunlap Public Library each winter, and as a lead event planner, Jeff fundraises and makes purchases to ensure that every child that visits Santa receives a gift.

“When I was serving our country in the military, I learned very early on that it takes an Army to do great things,” said Jeff. “One person cannot do it all. The work of multiple people with different skill sets will only increase the quality of the work being done. I feel I can help the community and also have the self-satisfaction that I did something for my town.”

Jeff volunteers time at Boyer Valley High School home football games as a member of the chain crew and was a recent member of the City of Dunlap Planning and Zoning Committee. He volunteers at the food stand during the 4 County Fair and, in the past, he served as a fair judge.

Jen has served on the Boyer Valley School Board since 2020 and the Harrison County Conference Board since 2021. She is also a member of the Piecemakers Quilt Guild in Harrison County.

Regarding church-related functions, she helps with the St. Patrick Church Religious Education Program and regularly volunteers to assist with Vacation Bible School. She volunteers on various committees at the church, serves as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and is a member of the local chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America.

“Jen is extremely thoughtful, and just gives and gives and gives of her time and talents,” said Schaben.

“Before I retired from being a teacher, I was busy working, going to school, raising a family, and being a military spouse,” explained Jen. “I helped when and where I could. Now that I’m retired, I can give back to our community. I’ve taken advantage of programs everywhere that I’ve lived that have relied on volunteers, so this is a time for me to finally give back fully to help our community. We came back to Dunlap frequently when our son was growing up. We always had fun at the community Easter Egg Hunt, the Kiddie Parade, the Fun Run/Walk, the 4th of July activities in the park, and the 4 County Fair. It’s my turn to make sure these events continue for kids (and adults!) to enjoy.”

In the summer months, Jen can be found volunteering in the city park during the community’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and at the 4 County Fair. She has also recently

taught water aerobics at the Dunlap Pool and helps annually at the Dunlap Community Garden.

And, if that isn't enough community service, Jeff and Jen also both help deliver meals for the Dunlap Senior Center.

"Dunlap is a small town that brings out the best in everyone," Jeff shared. "People here rely on one another to pull together as a community to make incredible things happen. It takes a lot of people working towards a common goal to make a small town become successful. Dunlap does just that."

"All of the other towns and cities I've lived in are just places, but Dunlap is home," Jen added. "I love the close-knit community of our town. People look after neighbors, and we take care of each other. I love how so many of us work together to make this a great place to live."

Jen shared an example of why she enjoys life in Dunlap. "During the Pandemic, our little neighborhood started the 'Five o'clock Wave.' Every day at 5:00 p.m., we'd come out of our houses, wave and check up on each other. We did this for over a year! Stuff like this makes Dunlap a fantastic place to live!"

"Helping someone or the community will give them a feeling of satisfaction that can't be bought at a store. Many hands make light work," said Jeff.

"A lot of people are busy today," Jen added, "but volunteering is so important! It gives me a sense of pride. I encourage people to do what you can when you can! A little help can go a long way, whether it's an hour a couple of times a month, or even a couple of times a year. This is our town, our place, our community! Give back when and where you can!"

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Know someone who deserves recognition for their service to Dunlap? Visit [dunlapia.com](http://dunlapia.com) and click the Resources tab to access the "That's How It's Dun" nomination form. Four Dunlap area residents will be recognized annually. Contact Jill Schaben with questions at [dunlapdcdc@gmail.com](mailto:dunlapdcdc@gmail.com)

