

MICHAEL P. KRONE

Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

The John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee annually awards Westwood's highest honor to an individual who has been remarkable in service to the community. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community, both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize the spirit of community involvement illustrative of John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure we announce Michael P. Krone as the seventeenth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Michael was first appointed to serve as a member of the Finance Commission in 1988, serving 5 years including two leaderships as Vice Chair and Chair throughout his terms. During his term, the Finance Commission, through the guidance of Michael, participated and guided the implementation of a wetlands bylaw and a major renovation to the Thurston Middle School through its reports and recommendations to Town Meeting.

In 1996, Michael ran for and was elected to the Board of Assessors where he served for 22 years. Michael was always up to date on current and pending legislation and if it would affect the Town of Westwood ensuring everyone was prepared for any and all changes. Michael led by example, always wanting to learn more and encourage the staff to do the same. His involvement with staff and residents alike was always of support and availability, taking time to hear the concerns and take action when needed. Michael was also instrumental in fully automating the Assessor's Office and its operations, providing excellent guidance to the Select Board on setting the Commercial and Residential Tax Shift.

During his tenure on the Board of Assessors, Michael was one of the leading contributors to the Town's efforts to build financial stability including efforts to build up the stabilization fund, addressing the OPEB Liability, promoting sustainable budgets, use of University Station tax revenue and debt limit analysis, all of which contributes to the Town's AAA Bond Rating. As representative of the Board of Assessors, Michael served for fifteen years on the Long Range Financial Planning Committee, beginning with its inception in 2003; was a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee; a member of the OPEB Liability Task Force; and a member of the Aid to the Elderly and Infirm Committee.

As a long standing member of the community, Michael assisted in coaching tee ball, Little League and girls' softball for his son, Nick and daughters Lauren and Cassandra. Over the course of 18 years, Michael also taught law and business at Northeastern University, helping train future leaders.

Outside of Westwood, Michael has served over 20 years on the Board of Hellenic College / Holy Cross Seminary for and has been active on various professional, church and charitable organizations. In 1998, he was appointed as an Archon of the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate – the highest honor bestowed upon a lay person in the Orthodox faith in recognition of his many years of service to the church.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that we present this prestigious award to Michael P. Krone and add his name to the plaque displayed in Town Hall listing all previously honored individuals.