

\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

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## **Historic Elmira, Inc. Presents Five Local Winners with the Eighth Annual Preservation Awards**

ELMIRA, NY • March 23, 2016 – Historic Elmira presented their eighth Annual Preservation Awards at an event held at Elmira College’s Cowles Hall today. George L. Howell Advocate Awards were presented to Mark Frampton, the Manzari Family, and Ray Finger. Project Awards were presented to The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 803 and the Elmira City Club.

“We are continually gratified by the number of people in Elmira who engage actively in historic preservation,” said Kaye Newbury, President of Historic Elmira, Inc. “Our annual awards program continues to ensure that their work is recognized and appreciated.”

The George L. Howell Advocate Award celebrates government officials, community leaders, local business owners, journalists, and private citizens who passionately value and demonstrate their advocacy for our historic and architectural heritage through active involvement in the community. The Advocate Award is also open to groups or organizations currently engaged in promoting historic preservation in the Elmira area.

Mark Frampton of Pine City received a George L. Howell Advocate Award for his many years of care and dedication to the preservation, restoration, and protection of the historic Webb Mills Cemetery. “Mark initially worked on the Webb Mills Cemetery restoration as an Eagle Scout, and some four decades later he again took up the tender care of this historic cemetery, which pre-dates the Civil War,” states his nominator. “He is an example to follow. He saw a need and he stepped in to fill it!”

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The second George L. Howell Advocate Award was presented to the Manzari Family (Vito, Giovanna, Joe, and Chris) of Elmira for the preservation of a vital gathering place at 105 East Miller Street, Elmira. Manzari's Grill has remained a popular restaurant and gathering place for well over 80 years and through 3 generations of Manzaris. "On most days you can still find Vito and Giovanna in the kitchen making meatballs to go along with their famous spaghetti dinners, and Joe is serving customers," states the nominator. "Vito has many stories to tell and knows just about everyone from the Southside, and he is always happy to share his stories and history of the people in the area."

The third George L. Howell Advocate Award was presented to Ray Finger of Horseheads, NY for his well-researched and professional journalistic reporting, bringing public attention and support to the value and challenges of historic preservation in Elmira and NY State. "Whenever we approached Ray about programs, projects, events or even general awareness relative to historic preservation, he was always willing to look into the issue and consider writing about it in his column in the Star Gazette," states the nominator. "He was thorough and fair in his reporting, and his professionalism in calling attention to historic preservation issues, events and projects has been instrumental in raising not just awareness, but also essential support for the efforts of Historic Elmira."

The Project Award recognizes historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse projects in the Elmira area that contribute to the appearance, character, and value of our local neighborhoods and community.

A Project Award was given to The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 803 for their adaptive reuse of an existing building to create The Vietnam Veterans War Museum at 120 Davis Street, Elmira. "They had a dream to preserve the memory, and to honor those who served in the Vietnam War, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice," states the nominator. "What was once an empty building was transformed into something of value to preserve part of Elmira's history."

A Project Award was presented to the Elmira City Club for the restoration and preservation of its 1893 Clubhouse at 320 East Church Street, Elmira. "Throughout the years, the City Club has been carefully maintained, preserving its Edwardian-era architectural style," states the nominee. "Despite those efforts, the foundation of the building had deteriorated considerably and needed substantial renovation. In 2010, the George F. Randolph Foundation was formed to support the ongoing care of the exterior of the building and in 2014 enough funds had been raised to provide for an exterior renovation of the building. We thank the members of the Elmira City Club and George L. Howell's leadership for making this happen."

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The mission of Historic Elmira, Inc. is to champion historic preservation in the Elmira region by providing education, advocacy, collaboration, and facilitation in activities supporting preservation and enhancements of buildings and sites of historic significance. More information about Historic Elmira can be found at [www.HistoricElmira.org](http://www.HistoricElmira.org).

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