

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Hometown Hero Dan O'Brien

WHEREAS, Dan O'Brien has been an Emerson resident since 1987 and has owned Academy Electric, a generator business also located in Emerson since 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dan has been a longtime volunteer in Emerson and the surrounding communities and he is an ex-Chief of the Emerson Volunteer Fire Department and is a current member of the Westwood Volunteer Fire Department, where he has just received his 50 years of service award; and

WHEREAS, in addition to volunteering as a firefighter, Dan is active in promoting Emerson's business community as the Vice President of the Emerson Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dan has a generous and philanthropic spirit and often donates his time and resources to help organizations, causes, and those in need; and

WHEREAS, through connections in the National Emergency Generator Dealers Association, Dan began assisting the people of North Carolina, especially those in the mountain areas, who were recently devastated by Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, with some of these regions completely destroyed, these residents have been without power since the hurricane's landfall in September 2024, thereby restricting their access to well-water and heat; and

WHEREAS, with Dan's mission clear, he has devoted considerable time and resources to helping them get temporary power, as permanent restoration is not expected until March 2025, by seeking donations from generator vendors as well as the community at large, in addition to having his employees service portable generators and light towers, which were in his shop; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Dan's efforts and a shared spirit of generosity, Dan was able to make the 1,500-mile roundtrip trek to deliver 14 portable generators, including a 5000-watt portable generator from Winco Generators, along with 1,000 feet of 10-4 cord from Cooper Electric Supply to a rescue center in Godfather, North Carolina, to help power affected homes on November 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dan also brought his own equipment including a Skid-Steer Bobcat to North Carolina, which he personally used to clear debris and help repair the driveways of residences; and

WHEREAS, Dan was recognized by Mayor DiPaola and was awarded as a Hometown Hero by Congressman Gottheimer for his humanitarian efforts on December 16, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Danielle DiPaola, on behalf of the Governing Body and the residents of the Borough of Emerson, congratulate **Dan O'Brien** for being a recipient of a 2024 Hometown Hero award and commend his selfless actions not only to those in his hometown but to those in need in the mountains of North Carolina.



Danielle DiPaola, Mayor
February 18, 2025