

Regional Chamber names citizen, Businesses of the year.

- January 27, 2007, Winchester Star

KERNSTOWN--She's an angel with wings the size of a Boeing. That's how WINC radio host Barry Lee, master of ceremonies for the 2006 Top of Virginia Regional Chamber Regional Greater Good Awards, described Winchester resident Helen Zebarth, winner of the 2006 Outstanding Citizen of the Year award. "Helen Zebarth, angel first class," Lee said.



At Friday evening's ceremony at the Sportsplex, Lee said Zebarth has spent more than 25 years taking care of people, working with Shenandoah University and as the co-founder of Blue Ridge Hospice.

She is also active in Kiwanis, Christ Episcopal Church, and the Critical Incident Stress Management team of the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

Zebarth was selected for the award, he said, because of her respect and love for others. He described her as compassionate, sensible, enthusiastic, and forceful.

All the award winners, Lee said, were people who epitomized character and leadership and deserved to be recognized for their efforts.

When she accepted the chamber award, Zebarth said she came back from Richmond on Friday because she thought she was accepting an award on behalf of Blue Ridge Hospice.

She asked the staff members from the hospice and SU to stand and be recognized for the important roles they have played in her life.

"This community has meant the world to me," she said.

She also recognized her family members and the Rev. John C. Seville at Christ Episcopal Church. "Thank you to the chamber," she said, "and thank you to the community for giving someone the opportunity to help."

-Angela Jones