

Warm Hearts, Memories and Honor Highlight 2018 Veterans 5K Appreciation Run

The morning of November 3 was cold and raining, but you could feel the warmth from the hearts of the runners when Jeff Binz, UAW Region 9 Director, sounded the horn to start the 5K run. Over 100 runners from ages 11 to 84 braved the elements to participate in this year's 19th Annual UAW Region 9 Veterans Appreciation Run in Lockport, New York. Many of the runners participate in this run every year, and each has their own special story for running.

UAW Local 774 retiree Jim Burns was the oldest man to run. At 70, Jim is a Vietnam War veteran who is active in many local veteran activities. For example, Jim participates in other veteran runs



“It was an honor to participate in this event and to support the men and women who give so much to keep our country safe,” said UAW Region 9 Director Jeff Binz.

including one in which he carries a full backpack of food to raise awareness of feeding our veterans who are not able to feed themselves.

UAW Local 686 members Monica Farnham and Patty Giles dressed in their red, white and blue tutus. Both are breast cancer survivors

and ran this year to honor former UAW EAP Representative Joe Rosati, who passed away in June. Edna Hyer from South Wales, New York, was the oldest runner at 84. Edna has been participating in this run for many years and it's been known to be one of her favorites. Alexander Krull, the son of UAW Local 55 members Jay and Theresa Krull, won the race with a time of 17:47. Each volunteer took time to remember James Deveraux, a beloved active member of their committee, who passed away in the Buffalo VA Medical Center in June. Even though they were all running for different reasons, each runner and volunteer came to show honor and appreciation to our veterans.

Director Binz said, “It was an honor to participate in this event and to support the men and women who give so much to keep our country safe.”

This Veterans Appreciation Run is the largest fundraiser for the WNY UAW Region 9 Veterans Committee, which is made up of UAW locals throughout Western New York. This year's run raised \$16,000.

Guy Newell, committee chairperson, recently ordered a brand new 12-passenger van which the committee will donate to the Bath VA Medical Center in New York on coming months. This will be the fourth van the committee has donated to local veterans' hospitals. The previous van was donated in



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2016. The local VA hospitals have found the donated vans instrumental in helping transport veterans to and from their appointments. This is just one way the WNY Region 9 Veterans Committee shows their appreciation to our local veterans.



UAW Local 686 members and breast cancer survivors, Monica Farnham and Patty Giles, dressed in their red, white and blue tutus. They ran to honor former UAW EAP Representative Joe Rosati, who passed away in June.

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