

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Amy Phillips**
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Michael Donato, Dr. Michael R. Gorman, and Robert P. Brady to Be Honored as Cumberland & Salem Counties Distinguished Citizens

Westampton, NJ [May XX, 2026] - Three remarkable South Jersey leaders—Michael Donato, Dr. Michael R. Gorman, and Robert P. Brady—will be honored for their outstanding contributions to the community at the 2026 Cumberland and Salem Counties Distinguished Citizens Award Reception. This event will take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove at Centerton, 1022 Almond Road, Pittsgrove, NJ. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at bit.ly/CSCDCA.

The Distinguished Citizens Award, presented annually, celebrates individuals whose leadership and character embody the values of Scouting, serving as role models for youth across the region. Proceeds from the event will support Scouting programs that empower young people in South Jersey to lead with confidence, character, and responsibility.

“These honorees lead with integrity, serve with purpose, and invest in the future of their communities,” said Patrick Linfors, Scout Executive and CEO of Scouting America’s Garden State Council. “Their respective work strengthens public safety, expands access to education, and shapes young people through mentorship. They reflect the values at the heart of Scouting and set a standard for the next generation of leaders.”

Michael Donato, the Cumberland County Honoree, built a career of more than 25 years in law enforcement, serving Cumberland County through the Sheriff’s Office, Bridgeton Police Department, and Prosecutor’s Office. He advanced to Detective Lieutenant, led major crimes investigations, and worked with agencies at the local, county, and federal levels. He also contributed decades of volunteer leadership in fire and EMS, supporting and protecting his community in multiple roles.

Dr. Michael R. Gorman, the Salem County Honoree, has served as President of Salem Community College since 2015. He champions accessible, high-quality education and strengthens connections between the college and the community. He expands programs, builds partnerships, and promotes the college’s mission throughout Salem County. He also serves on boards including the Salem County Chamber of Commerce, Stand Up for Salem, and the Economic Development Council, supporting economic growth and opportunity.

Robert P. Brady earned the Scouting Lifetime Achievement Award through decades of leadership in business and Scouting. He spent more than 30 years with Cumberland Mutual Fire Insurance Company, including serving as President and CEO, where he guided growth and community engagement. He continues to support Scouting as an adult leader and District Advancement Chairman, mentoring young people and advancing programs. He received the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his service.

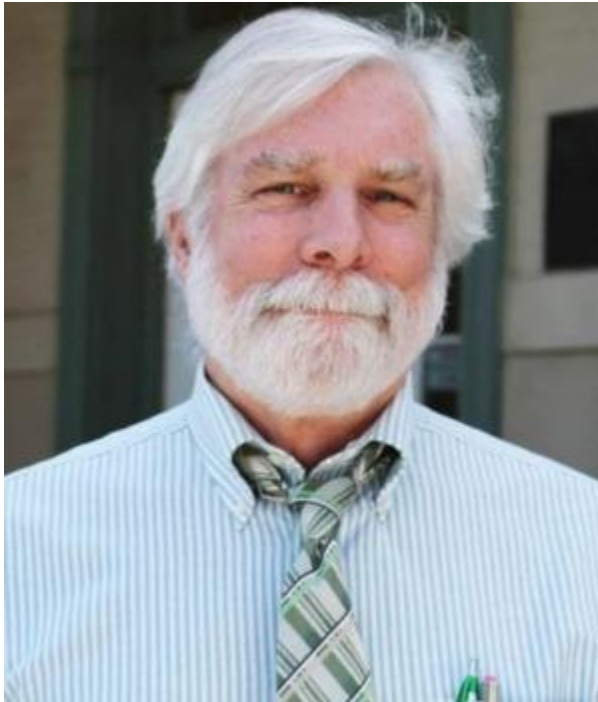
Scouting America's Garden State Council serves thousands of youth across southern New Jersey, offering programs that build leadership skills, instill strong values, and inspire a lifelong commitment to service and adventure. The Distinguished Citizens Award Reception unites community members, business leaders, and Scouting supporters for an evening of celebration and impact, ensuring the continued success of these vital programs.

About Scouting America Garden State Council

The Scouting America Garden State Council provides comprehensive Scouting programs to communities in Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and parts of Atlantic counties. These include Cub Scouts (grades K–5), Scouts BSA (ages 11–17), and co-ed programs such as Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Exploring (ages 14–20). Through outdoor adventures, leadership development, and community service, the Garden State Council ensures youth are prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow. For more information, visit www.gardenstatescouting.org.



Michael Donato, Cumberland County Honoree



Dr. Michael R. Gorman, Salem County Honoree



Robert P. Brady, Scouting Lifetime Achievement Award