

Opening / Welcome

“Good evening, everyone! It is wonderful to see so many of you gathered here at Riverfest, our Village’s most cherished tradition. Each year, this celebration gives us the chance not only to enjoy each other’s company, but also to honor someone who embodies the true spirit of Port Barrington — someone whose life, service, and generosity have made this community stronger and more connected.

This year, I am proud to say that we have an extraordinary honoree. Trustee Bob Tuke nominated a man who has been part of the very fabric of this Village for nearly his entire life. After a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees, it is my great honor to present the 2025 Port Barrington Hometown Hero Award to *Mr. Wayne Krcmar*.”

Early Life & Roots in the Community

“Wayne was born in Chicago in November of 1945 to George and Kate Krcmar. When he was just five years old, his family moved here to Fox River Valley Gardens — the same beautiful community that later became Port Barrington. Wayne grew up camping and fishing in the Nielsen Channels with his parents and brothers, and it was here that the Krcmars — along with close family friends planted their roots.

From that time on, Wayne has never left. This Village has always been his home, and he has dedicated his life to being a part of it.”

Military Service & Heroism

“As a young man, Wayne was drafted into the U.S. Army and served with the 4th Infantry Division, 42nd Artillery, during the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1967. On the front lines, he demonstrated the courage and devotion that have defined his life. In one battle, disregarding his own safety, Wayne entered a firefight to protect and cover the withdrawal of his comrades. For this act of bravery, he was awarded the Bronze Star — a recognition of his heroism and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of others.”

Community Leader & Business Owner

“After returning home, Wayne worked hard like so many of his fellow residents, eventually taking over the family business — Hermann’s Rest-A-While — from his mother Kate in 1983. Since 1927, Hermann’s has been a gathering place for our community, and under Wayne’s leadership, it has remained just that: a place of welcome, support, and togetherness.

Over the years, Hermann’s has been more than just a business — it has been a social center, a meeting space, and, when needed, even an emergency number for latchkey kids in the 1980s and 90s. It has been a hub where neighbors gather when the power goes out, a host for holiday parades, fishing derbies, and fundraisers, and a safe haven during floods when Wayne offered rowboats and labor for sandbagging.

Wayne has always been ready to lend a hand — plowing the driveways of older residents, donating space for construction projects, sponsoring local teams and youth groups, and providing a launch for the weed cutter each season. He has given freely of his time, his resources, and his kindness.”

Service Beyond Business

“Wayne’s generosity extends far beyond our Village as well. For years, he has hosted weekend outings for veterans from the VA in North Chicago, giving those who otherwise might never have the chance an opportunity to enjoy fishing, the outdoors, and fellowship.

He has sponsored Prairie Ridge’s fishing team, supported Toys for Tots, contributed to Scouts, and even hosted the famous River Shiver fundraisers. He has kept traditions alive — from Christmas parades to corn roasts — always making sure our kids, our families, and our neighbors had something to enjoy together.”

Family & Honor Flight

“Wayne raised his own family right here — his children Mike and Angie, and their families, who continue to be active in this community. And in just a few weeks, Wayne will join fellow veterans on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his son, to reflect on his service and to visit the memorials built to honor men and women like him.

For those who would like to support the Lake County Honor Flight organization, you can visit www.lakecountyhonorflight.org to learn more.”

Closing

“Wayne, on behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, and with deep gratitude from every resident of Port Barrington, I want to thank you — for your bravery in service, your leadership as a business owner, and your endless generosity as a neighbor.

You have given us more than we could ever repay, and you truly embody the spirit of what it means to be a Hometown Hero.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Wayne Krcmar, our 2025 Port Barrington Hometown Hero!”