

HardisonInk.com

Vince and Pat Arcadi honored



Cross City Mayor Tank Lee presents The Commander's Award to Pat Arcadi.

Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 5, 2016 at 10:17 a.m.

OLD TOWN -- Vince and Pat Arcadi are among the charter leaders of the United States Marine Corps Reserves' efforts in the Toys For Tots program in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

In fact, it's been at least a decade since this couple made that effort to get toys to needy children in the Tri-County Area a successful mission. With help from countless volunteers and donors, they led the program year after year.



In this video, Cross City Mayor Tank Lee reads The Commander's Award that was presented to Pat and Vince Arcadi.

That program continues today with USMC (Ret.) Cpl. Bryan

Chrisp among the current leaders.

During the Annual Christmas Music Festival at Dixie Music Center on Sunday (Dec. 4), Pat Arcadi accepted some tributes to her and Vince for their successful efforts,

HardisonInk.com

through times when some would have conceded defeat. (Well, he is a Marine).

This music festival on Sunday was one that Vince did not attend due to health issues.

Nevertheless Anthony A. “Tony” Zenner, Ph.D., of Dixie County, a USMC veteran, joined with Cross City Mayor Kenneth “Tank” Lee, a United States Army veteran, to pay tribute to Vince and Pat Arcadi for their stellar work.

The thousands of happy children and parents who enjoyed Christmas in 2011 thanks to the Toys For Tots program, Dr. Zenner said, may not have known about Vince Aradi’s leading those efforts despite being medically challenged.

In May of 2011, Vince learned that he had a medical issue. He had to undergo four surgeries within seven months, which were the busiest months for the Toys For Tots program, Zenner said.

Dr. Zenner said this couple never surrendered to the daunting task as volunteers stepped up their efforts as well to make it a wonderful Christmas for thousands of children. Even though there is no “Person of the Year” award in Dixie County or for the Tri-County Area, Zenner said, these two absolutely deserve that distinction in 2011 and more.

On Sunday afternoon, Zenner gave Pat Arcadi a framed copy of the speech he presented in that regard.

The couple also received a framed gold-colored silhouette artistic rendering of the Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima. This iconic artwork is based on a photograph taken on Feb. 23, 1945, by Joe Rosenthal. It depicts six United States Marines raising a U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi, during the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

Mayor Lee read the declaration of The Commander’s Award, in which a USMC general noted Vince Arcadi’s outstanding support of the local Marines’ Toys For Tots program.

“Your generous contributions have allowed the Marine Corps to bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America’s less fortunate children,” Lee said as he read from the award.

It was signed by Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian.

General McMillian assumed command of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North during a change of command ceremony held at the United States Marine Corps Support Facility in New Orleans, La., on Sept. 12, 2015.