

2026 CCA Citizen of the Year

Susan Franklin

You've all heard that phrase, "It takes one to know one", right? Well, this year's awardee was nominated by our 2019 Citizen of the Year, Christine Jackson, who submitted a lovely tribute to her good friend and nearby neighbor in the H Section, Susan Franklin.

To quote Christine, "I believe Sue is a beautiful example of someone who loves her community and who works tirelessly to bring people together, supports those in need, and creates a true sense of belonging for all who cross her path".

As a social worker with Catholic Charities, Sue is dedicated to ensuring access to quality mental health services for those in need, embracing the values of love, service, teaching, and working for justice. In Crofton, Sue has devoted that same spirit to her many volunteer efforts over two decades including Community Service Days at Crofton Woods; chaperoning countless field trips, band performances, and competitions; serving as a band booster at Crofton High School; supporting Scout Troop 758; and several years serving on AACPS's Citizen Advisory Committee. Sue was instrumental in launching Light Up Crofton, the Scouts' program that distributes luminaria kits for display around town one night each December. She co-founded the group named No More School Shootings that worked to provide educational and action-oriented opportunities to community members concerned about student safety.

Sue has served many years as a volunteer on the Crofton Police Department's Public Safety Committee, where she has consistently brought fresh perspectives and ideas for elevating CPD's service to the community.

But as Chris also said of Sue, "Perhaps even more impressive is her ability to create community simply through her daily interactions and traditions", including:

- **co-organizing over 15 annual block parties in the H Section**
- **decorating one side of the Franklin house during Covid with bright colors to bring a little novelty and hope to a difficult time**
- **extending indefinitely her Covid-era tradition of leaving drinks and snacks for mail carriers, delivery people, and sanitation workers**
- **hosting many political candidates meet-and-greets**
- **raising money each winter for Wreaths Across America, placing hundreds of wreaths at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville to remember those who have served**

And finally, if you are trick-or-treating in the H Section, the Franklin house is a must visit for top-notch decorations and treat bags doled out by a fully costumed, and always smiling, Sue Franklin.

In recognition of her selfless support of community and spirit of volunteerism, please join me in congratulating Susan Franklin, our 2026 CCA Citizen of the Year!