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**SALEM**

## Charitable jack of all trades

SALEM — When the Sisters of Mercy needed help to make 68-beds available for needy and sick elderly, William E. Silvestri helped see the effort through.

When St. Joseph Church needed renovations, it was the Salem builder's time and money that made it possible.

When his own Knights of Columbus Council 4442 couldn't find a contractor to handle the renovation of their hall, Mr. Silvestri, 50, stepped in with his staff from Silvestri Corp. to handle the work.

And those are just the acts people know about.

The folks who pushed him for the Knights' prestigious Granite Award — which goes to a New Hampshire resident who "exemplifies patriotism, leadership and humanitarianism" — had to do so without mentioning most of his charitable work,

which he prefers to do quietly.

Fortunately, the ones he couldn't hide were enough to earn him the 10th annual award. The Sisters of Mercy in Windham praised his role in the \$3.2 million renovation of their Warde Health Center, St. Joseph's told how he put off other projects to work on refurbishing the Catholic church, and his fellow Salem Knights of Columbus credited him with repeatedly breaking the Tootsie Roll fundraising record and the ongoing renovation of their hall.

"And there so many things he does that nobody knows about," said Grand Knight Wilfred E. Bamford.

Mr. Silvestri said he was shocked by the award and didn't appreciate its weight until he saw the list of former winners that includes Gov. Judd Gregg. "I said 'Are you kidding me?'" he said. "Then I really got nervous."



Chris Markuns/Eagle-Tribune

**Salem builder William E. Silvestri with the Knights of Columbus Granite Award.**