



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Francis Praska receives 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award

Francis Praska, Lankin Mayor, received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) during the League's 2019 Annual Conference, Sept. 21, in Bismarck.

In his announcement that this award was being presented to Francis, NDLC Executive Director Blake Crosby stated, "This is what public service commitment looks like." He went on to outline a few of the accomplishments of Francis during his time as mayor:

- brought rural water into the city;
- brought in sewer lines and two lagoons with FHA funding;
- wrote a grant to remove 300 diseased Dutch elms;
- planted trees on empty lots on main street;
- led the city to earn the Tree City award for 23 straight years;
- advocated for an eight-city consolidated landfill and is on the Board for the managing organization;
- raised funds and on planning board for city's 75th and 100th year celebration;
- helped build Centennial Park;
- is a member of the city and rural fire departments;
- and saw a new fire hall built under his watch.

Francis also organized and funded the first antique tractor ride in Lankin. This event is now up to 120 tractors and 150 riders.

And, as if this is not enough involvement, Francis also:

- is an American Legion member and commander;
- is a past church trustee and serves as Eucharist minister;
- removes snow for the city, mows grass around town, trims branches, and pulls weeds;
- and drives a grain cart for a local farmer during harvest.

Over a span of 40 years, Francis has worked for Farmers Union Oil Company and then CHS as a manager and retired in 2004. He was instrumental in getting a C-Store added on to the existing Farmer's Union building.

In 2009 he was awarded the ND Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award.

Francis was raised in Pisek, was an Army National Guard member from 1974-1970, and has been married 54 years to Marilyn who is the City Auditor. They have two sons, one daughter, six grandsons and one granddaughter.

Photo L to R: Dan Stenvold, Park River Mayor and NDLC President; Francis Praska; Marilyn Praska; Blake Crosby, NDLC Executive Director

The North Dakota League of Cities provides service, advocacy, leadership, education and support to the state's 357 cities. The League's mission - Strong. Dynamic. Cities. - expresses the value of services offered by the League.

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