

Gary VanCour; a Brief Bio

Gary VanCour is a retired social studies teacher and Department Chair from the Beekmantown Central School District.

In that capacity, he was recognized by the NYS Education Department for his innovative work in developing document based instruction and assessment. He also served as President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association.

Gary was a charter member and a past President of the Beekmantown Lions Club, and currently is a member of the Plattsburgh Lions. Gary also served on the Beekmantown Board of Assessment Review for almost two decades.

He is a past President of the Battle of Plattsburgh Association, and, as a member and co-chair of the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee, he worked closely with the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau in promoting heritage tourism for the area.

Working with the State of New York and the community, he initiated and was instrumental in the establishment of the Culver Hill Historic Park in Beekmantown.

As a result of his service, Gary has been recognized and honored by having his name submitted into the Congressional Record, and was presented with the NYS Senate Liberty Award. He also received NYS Assembly and Clinton County Citations, and a key to the City of Plattsburgh.

He was also awarded Citizen of the Year by both the Kiwanis and Woodmen of the World. Recently, Gary was inducted into the Beekmantown Hall of Fame. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Friends of the Old Stone Barracks, is co-chair of the Champlain Valley Council of Retirees, and continues to perform with the musical group, "Towne Meeting."

Currently, Gary is the Town Historian for the Town of Beekmantown.