



On January 10, 2016 the Deerfield Board of Selectmen presented Rita Stevens with the Boston Post Cane Award. Rita resides at the home of her son, Tom and will turn 95 on January 25th.

The publisher of the Boston Post established this tradition in 1909. He had 700 canes manufactured and distributed to the Board of Selectmen of towns in MA, ME, NH & RI who were to be the Trustees of the cane and keep it always in the hands of the oldest citizen. It was originally only awarded to men but after considerable controversy, women were included for eligibility in 1930. Since the Deerfield cane was lost, a replica was made and put in a display

case to be kept permanently at the Town Hall with a listing of prior recipients. Rita received a plaque with her name on it to keep in her possession.

Rita, daughter of Sarah and Charles Bolduc, moved to Deerfield at a young age and has resided there to this day. She and her husband Ernest Jr. raised 8 children as well as several foster children. She drove her station wagon to pick up children on roads the school buses did not travel. She was a cook and with Ernest, a janitor at George B White School for many years. She taught Sunday School at the Congregational Church and was a 4-H leader. Rita was a member of the Deerfield Fair Association for many years where she and Ernest were in charge of grounds cleanup during the Fair. Rita kept busy with odd jobs including sewing, house cleaning, and working alongside her husband. They loved to go to yard sales and held many at their home on North Road. She also worked as a sandblast assembler at PK Lindsay Co. in Deerfield for many years until her retirement. Rita's loves of gardening, cooking and home improvement are passions that have been passed on to her children.

An interesting fact is that her husband Ernest has his name and picture on a plaque at the Deerfield Police Department for being Chief of Police from 1951-1954. Her sons Thomas and William are listed on a plaque at the Philbrick James Library as Vietnam Veterans. And now hers will be at the Town Hall.

Rita's family consists of 8 children, 17 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, 9 great-great grandchildren plus spouses and significant others -just shy of 100.

Rita is very excited to receive this award. The family had hoped to have a public recognition, but Rita is currently recovering from pneumonia. Birthday greetings in honor of Rita's 95th birthday on January 25th can be sent to 32 Birch Rd Deerfield NH 03037. Thank you to Steve Barry, Dick Pitman, Andrew Robertson and Rebecca Hutchinson for making this such a memorable day for Rita!