

Super Senior: Bobby Poquette



By [Joe Carroll](#)

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RUTLAND, Vt. (WCAX) - In Rutland, voices of admiration echo throughout the city for Bobby Poquette.

“He touches lives and I think, don’t we all want that?” said Kay Corio with the American Cancer Society.

“The world and our community are better because of Bobby,” said Donna Towler, an old classmate.

“Love him, love him,” said Angie Rivers, a friend.

Ask anyone in town who’s the most dedicated volunteer and Poquette’s name likely will be leading the list. “I like to help other people,” Poquette said.

Poquette turned 70 last weekend. He celebrated by volunteering at the Relay for Life, a longtime American Cancer Society fundraiser held at the Rutland Fairgrounds. Poquette walked with others to honor those who have survived the disease and those who have not. “I like to volunteer with people that have cancer, to find a cure for cancer,” he said. Poquette’s also the money man. People purchase \$1 tickets and put them in the bag of the gift they want to win. A drawing determines the winner.

It’s just one of the many organizations where Poquette volunteers his time. Every year he dons an elf hat and helps out at the Gift of Life Blood Drive. His time helping others goes way back.

Reporter Joe Carroll: School was hard for you?

Bobby Poquette: Yeah, I just went as far as 8th grade... They were pushing me through, stuff like that, and I said no.

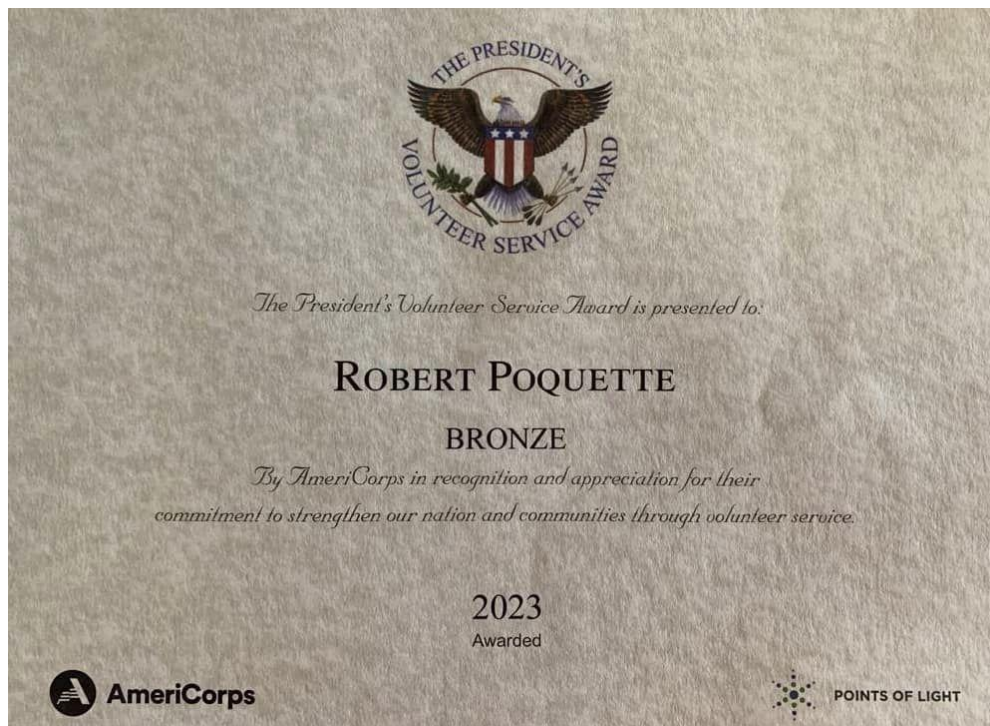
Towler went to elementary school with Poquette and knew of his learning struggles. “It made me better because even though he had a learning disability, he still showed us love and kindness,” she said.

Many people measure success by the car you drive or the college you attend. Poquette has neither, but he might be the richest man in Rutland. And his volunteering has been noticed. This year he was awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award for his years of service.

“And he deserves that medal. He got swag, what can I say,” Towler said. “You’re a celebrity.”

A humble man who says little, but whose actions speak for themselves.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. I congratulate you on taking it upon yourself to contribute to the public good, and I'm proud to present you with the President's Bronze Volunteer Service award in recognition of your 203.5 hours of service to this great Nation.

Throughout our country's history, the American story has been strengthened by those who combine an optimism about what can be with the resilience to turn that vision into reality. I know I'm not alone in recognizing that those who are willing to step up and volunteer in service of community and country are essential to the ongoing work of forming our more perfect union.

By sharing your time and passion, you are helping discover and deliver solutions to the challenges we face - solutions that we need now more than ever. We are living in a moment that calls for hope and light and love. Hope for our futures, light to see our way forward, and love for one another. Through your service, you are providing all three.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you for your volunteer leadership, and I encourage you to continue to answer the call to serve. The country is counting on you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. A. 1". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

