NOTABLE NEIGHBOR

Name: James DeCaro.
Town: Pittsford.
Accomplishment: DeCaro received the 2008 Contribution to Society Award from Japan’s Foundation for Encouragement of Social Contribution in Tokyo. The award, presented to 50 individuals worldwide, recognizes significant contributions to society in areas such as social welfare, education, international cooperation, lifesaving and conservation.

DeCaro was honored for his contributions to the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing people around the world. He is director of the Post-secondary Education Network International at the National Technical Institute of the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

DeCaro is one of only five non-Japanese recipients.

“I can think of no other individual in the field of deaf education more deserving of this award than my good friend and valued colleague, Jim DeCaro,” said T. Alan Hurwitz, president of NTID. “It is a wonderful tribute to a long-time advocate for equal educational opportunities for young people with hearing loss.”

DeCaro has worked in the field of education of deaf students since 1971. He is an honorary citizen of Tianjin, China, and was named Ambassador of

James DeCaro

Goodwill for Disabled People by the city. He also is an honorary professor at Tianjin University of Technology.

“I’m honored to receive this award,” said DeCaro, “and I hope that PEN-International’s efforts will continue to reap benefits for talented young deaf adults seeking opportunities to attend college and find meaningful employment.”

If you know a Notable Neighbor, send the details and a photo by e-mail to Roc-Info@DemocratandChronicle.com. Type “Notable Neighbor” in the subject line. Or mail to Notable Neighbor, Our Towns, 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614. To read about other Notable Neighbors, go to DemocratandChronicle.com and click on your community.