

Eugene A. Bettiol Jr. Distinguished Citizen of the Year

Brenner served community in many areas

By Denise Richardson
Staff Writer

David W. Brenner has a leadership wardrobe with many mantles.

His attire has been woven of academic, community and municipal threads. He now works as a consultant in management assistance, a job crafted from decades of experience as a scholar, administrator, elected leader and resident of Oneonta and Otsego County.

On March 28, he will be recognized by the Otsego County Chamber, which has named him a recipient of the Eugene A. Bettiol Jr. Distinguished Citizen Award. The honor will be given at the Chamber's annual banquet at the State University College at Oneonta.

Brenner, 76, a former mayor of Oneonta and member of the Otsego County Board of Representatives, expressed "heartfelt thanks" for the award. The greater Oneonta area has given him many opportunities to serve and fulfill a goal to give back to the community, he said.

The Bettiol Award is among more than a dozen Brenner has received for distinguished community service.

He and his wife, Lois, were named Mr. and Mrs. Oneonta by the Future for Oneonta Foundation in 2004. He also has been recognized by the Hartwick College Citizens Board, the Oneonta Area National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Planned Parenthood and United University Professions. He received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service for 1978-79.

David Merzig, Oneonta city attorney, said Brenner qualifies for any award the area has to offer for community service.

"He has always been dedicated to community service," said Merzig, a Republican. For 12 years, Merzig worked with the mayor on a daily basis after Brenner, also a Republican, tapped him to be city attorney in 1986.



Star photo by Julie Lewis

Above: A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital President John Remillard talks with David Brenner, a member of hospital board, in his office in the hospital on March 14.



Left: Brenner gives parents of State University College at Oneonta students a bus tour of the city on July 20, 1992. At the time, Brenner was mayor of the city and associate vice president for academic affairs at the college.

Daily Star file photo