

## **PARENT AWARD**

### **Larry and Doris Gagne**

For nearly three decades Larry Gagne has risen before the sun to go to work at a lumber yard in Rochester, New Hampshire. There he faces tasks that can often strain the back and take a toll on a person's body as it ages. Today, his hair a little grayer and thinner than it once was, he still comes home whistling as he walks up the driveway of his home. Often, through the years Larry would meet another passing ship at the end of his driveway, as his wife Doris headed to work to manage a restaurant on the evening shift. Doris was often at the restaurant well past closing time, which didn't keep her from waking up early in the morning to make sure her two boys had breakfast and packed lunches before heading off to school, after which she would babysit other people's children for a little extra income. Larry, for his part didn't let his hard work keep him from getting down on the floor to play with his boys, coaching them in Little League when the time came, reading them books, and helping them with their homework, and still finding time to encourage their fitness and discipline by lifting weights and running. Larry and Doris never had a lot of money, though their two sons wouldn't have known that. The extra shifts at the lumber yard or the restaurant? The homemade crafts sold at seasonal fairs? All so that their two sons could have the college education that hadn't been available to them. That goal was never in doubt. One son went to Bates College the other came to Saint Anselm. The tuition, room and board? The occasional extra cash for pizza? Nearly all of it was covered. Both boys graduated with minimal debt, and with the example of persistence and sacrifice their parents had laid for them, they both worked their way to the tops of their respective professions: one becoming a Senior Editor at *Sports Illustrated*, and the other a Special Agent with the FBI. Though they struggled at times to make ends meet, Larry and Doris Gagne taught their two sons the most vital lessons they would ever need to know: love, determination, humility, and sacrifice. On behalf of their two grateful children, and parents working the extra shifts everywhere, the Alumni Association is pleased to honor Larry and Doris Gagne with the 2019 Parents Award.